

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Collecting art
The art of what to buy -
if you have the money

Weekend breaks
From Budapest (below)
to Bangkok: how to get the
best from a weekend
break



Old and new
Values looks at modern
day Victorian wallpapers

Rugby views
David Hands previews
England against Ireland
and Gerald Davies on
Wales against France

BBC backs Panorama allegations

The BBC stood by the *Panorama* programme on alleged links between Conservative MPs and right-wing extremists. A statement issued after a meeting between the BBC and Conservative Party leaders said that the corporation remained convinced that the programme was well-founded and the party remained convinced it was not.

Shore attack

Mr Peter Shore accused the Prime Minister of evasion after further exchanges over her son's role in the Oman university contract.

Secret trial

Almost the entire trial of Michael Bettaney, the M15 officer on spying charges, will be held in camera. The case is expected to last eight days.

Levy review

The TUC is asking unions to review the system where members pay a levy to the Labour Party, as part of a code agreed with the Government.

Solvent ban

France is to ban sales of Trichlorethylene solvent to people under 18 in a campaign against drug abuse. About 20 young people died from glue and solvent sniffing last year.

Gulf offensive

Iran claims to have beaten off four separate Iraqi counterattacks in the escalating Gulf war, but Iraq says the Iranians are in retreat.

Rebate plea

Britain is seeking an extra session of the European Parliament to try to free its delayed £457m budget rebate before March 31.

Press warning

Journalists who encourage others to break the law for journalistic purposes will be liable for prosecution in future, the Attorney General told the Commons.

Honda hint

Honda is once again looking at the possibility of setting up a motorcycle manufacturing plant in Britain, perhaps in five or six years.

Mortgage hope

The Halifax Building Society says it may break ranks with other building societies and cut its mortgage rate in April, if it considers conditions right.

Campbell out

Illness has ruled Ollie Campbell out of Ireland's rugby team to play England at Twickenham tomorrow. His place will be taken by Tony Ward.

Leader page, 13
Letters: On union rights, from Lord Wedderburn of Charlton; GCHQ, from Mr. Greville Janner, QC; Mr. Andropov and press, from Miss Olga Franklin, and Mr Douglas-Horne.
Leading articles: Public spending; Namibia and Angola; Mr Shore and Mrs Thatcher.
Features, pages 10, 11, 12
Bernard Levin on organ transplants; the secret build-up to the Grenada invasion; spectrum on fifth generation computers; Friday page meets a nostalgic author.
Obituary, page 14
Ethel Merman, Philippe Ariès.

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Tight rein on public spending paves way for lower taxes

● The public spending White Paper, with its plans for tight spending curbs, paves the way for a series of tax-cutting budgets.
● In real terms, the level of public expenditure is expected to remain broadly unchanged until 1986-87, allowing tax cuts as the economy grows.

● Cuts in lending to state industries and in council spending will offset big rises in the defence, health, and social security budgets.
● Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, criticized the White Paper severely.

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Government paved the way yesterday for a series of tax-cutting budgets with the publication of its public spending plans showing tight curbs on spending over the next three years.

Between now and 1986-87 the level of public expenditure is expected to remain broadly unchanged after allowing for inflation, which ministers believe will leave room for tax cuts as the economy grows.

The prospects for next month's budget also look more promising. Less overspending than expected this year and a big reserve for unforeseen contingencies next year are likely to increase the scope for Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to cut taxes or further reduce borrowing.

The public spending White Paper discloses that total spending in the 1983-84 financial year is expected to be £120.3bn, £700m more than planned last year but a good deal less than many in the City had feared. Spending in 1984-85 is planned to rise by 5 per cent to £126.4bn, in line with expected inflation.

In the two following years the spending is expected to increase by 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 to £132.1bn and by 3.5 per cent in 1986-87 to £136.7bn.

The price assumptions for these years are not published until the Budget, but the figures imply an ambitious inflation target of about 4 per cent in 1985-86, declining in 1986-87. If prices rise more quickly than that, an unchanged level of spending in cash terms will mean a squeeze in the amount of goods and services provided.

Introducing the White Paper, Mr Peter Roes, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Government intended to hold the level of public spending "broadly constant" in inflation-adjusted real terms.

He added: "As the economy continues to grow, public expenditure will represent a decreasing share of the national product, thus providing the scope to reduce the burden of taxation which it now imposes on individuals and industry alike."

Spending is expected to fall to 42 per cent of national product in 1984-85 from 43 per cent this year. If the Government can stick to its plans, unlike in past years, and growth continues at 2.5 to 3 per cent a year, the proportion would drop to about 40 per cent by 1986-87, just below the level it was at when the Government took office in 1979.

The overall picture of stable real spending disguises big changes in individual programmes, and has been helped by the inclusion of assets sales of £2bn a year over the next three years, a practice sharply criticized on Wednesday by the all-party Treasury select committee of MPs.

Big increases in the budgets for defence, health, and social security (which now accounts for more than a quarter of all public spending) will be offset by cuts in lending to state industries, and in local authority spending, including housing and education.

The Government confirmed yesterday that the commitment of NATO to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year in real terms would lapse after 1985-86. No real increase in defence spending is planned in 1986-87.

The Treasury has also built in much bigger margins for contingencies than in the past, rising from £2.750m next year to £4.750m in 1986-87, in an effort to stop an overrun of the totals through unexpected events or straightforward errors in prediction.

Projected investment in the energy industries includes £800m for new coal mines, which the Government will pay for, changes in the electricity distribution system, which the electricity supply industry will finance, an £2.400m worth of capital projects planned by the British Gas Corporation, and which it will pay for out of its own revenue.

The plans were criticized severely by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor.

He described the White Paper as "complacent and callous". It was a continuation of the policy that had done so much damage to the country over the past four years, producing more than three million unemployed and a "very substantial" deterioration in the social services.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, called for a big programme of public investment. But the plans were broadly welcomed by the employers' organizations, the CBI and the Institute of Directors.

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1984-85 to 1986-87. Stationery Office, (ind. 9143). Vol 1, £5.65; Vol 2, £11.50.



Downhill to the top: Bill Johnson, of the United States, in only his third season in Europe, races to a downhill gold medal in the Winter Olympic Games at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, took the silver medal. Reports, page 20.

Ceasefire move in Angola war

Angolan and South African negotiators, meeting in Lusaka with the United States as mediator, announced joint steps to establish an effective ceasefire in their border war, which could lead to a wider peace settlement and independence for Namibia.

United States officials said American observers could be sent, if requested, to monitor the disengagement of forces. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, said on Wednesday that this disengagement was under way.

Commission set up, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Kremlin struggle for power goes on

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There were reports circulating in Moscow last night of a continuing power struggle within the 12-man Politburo, which met yesterday afternoon for the first time under the new Soviet leader Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

The Young Generation faction on the Politburo led by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, aged 52, was said to be angry over the suppression of a speech made by Mr Gorbachov at last Monday's Central Committee meeting.

At the meeting, an extraordinary session held in private, Mr Chernenko was finally elected General Secretary of the party, five days after the death of Mr Yuri Andropov. The delay was said to be due to an intense factional struggle as the younger Politburo members and Central Committee secretaries groomed for power by Mr Andropov resisted the rise of Mr Chernenko, aged 72, whom they regarded as a throwback to the Brezhnev era and unlikely to implement Mr Andropov's forward-looking reforms.

Until yesterday it had not been revealed that Mr Gorbachov had made a speech at Monday's session. An official account of the meeting published in booklet form showed that Mr Gorbachov had loyally called for unity and unanimity. "There would have been no harm in mentioning this in the wings," Mr Chernenko remarked.

Mr Gorbachov has been prominent on television since Mr Chernenko took over, and was shown standing close to the new party leader both at President Andropov's lying in state and at the funeral on Red Square. This would appear to make him an effective heir apparent, representing the younger generation of Politburo members which also includes Mr Grigoriy Romanov, aged 61, Mr Vitaly Voronikov, aged 57, and Mr Gaidar Aliyev, aged 60. Some members of the old guard resent the implication that Mr Gorbachov will shortly take over from the aging and ailing Mr Chernenko, however, and are anxious to suppress the suggestion that he is waiting in the wings.

Pravda on Tuesday, an observer said. "But the old guard is apparently afraid of Gorbachov's influence and afraid the younger generation will stage some kind of coup, forcing Chernenko out of office."

Yesterday's *Pravda* reported Mr Chernenko's meetings with Dr Castro, Señor Ortega of Nicaragua, Mr Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan and Mr Pierre Trudeau of Canada on its front page, but did not carry the stamp of a new personality. "There is not yet any sense of a Chernenko era opening up," one diplomat remarked.

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Record 17 to stand in poll

From Anthony Bevis, Chesterfield

A record 17 candidates are in the running for the Chesterfield by-election on March 1. At the close of nominations yesterday the returning officer disclosed that the contest would exceed last year's Southwark, Bermondsey record by one candidate.

The full list of those nominated is:

Miss Helen Anson, of Newbury, Death On Roads; Mr Jitendra Nim Bardwaj, of Boyford, near Hertford, Yoga and Meditation;

Mr Anthony Neil Wedgwood, of London, Labour;

Mr David Edward Bentley, of Grindleford, Derbyshire, Four-Wheel Drive Hatchback Road Safety;

Mr Nicholas Henry Bourne, of London, Conservative;

Mr Donald Butler, of Thame, Oxfordshire, Buy Your Chesterfield in Thame Party;

Mr David Michael Cahill, of London, Reclassify Sun Newspaper as a Comic;

Mr John Connell, of Walsborough, West Lothian, Peace;

Mr John Victor Davey, of Chesterfield, no increase in Dental Charges;

Mr Christopher Stuart Hill, West Drayton, Prisoner: I Am Not a Number;

Mr Thomas Arthur Layton, of Hove, Spare the Earth (Ecology);

Mr Bill Maynard, of Sapcote, Leicestershire, Independent;

Mr Paul Nicholls-Jones, of Rhoddda, Independent (The Welshman);

Mr Max Gascayne Payne, of Sheffield, Alliance;

Mr Giancarlo Renato Piccaro, of Worcester, Official Ape Party;

Mr Sid David Shaw, of London, Elvis Yours, Elvis Presley Party;

Lord David Edward Sutcliffe, of London, Monster Raving Loony Party Last Stand;

Lord Sutcliffe remarked that the Prisoner candidate and the Elvis Presley candidate were going to get together and use the song "Jailhouse Rock" as their campaign theme.



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Mr Max Gascayne Payne, of Sheffield, Alliance;
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British four on Oscar short list

From Ivor Davis, Hollywood

Four British actors, Michael Caine, Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Tom Conti, will battle it out with the American Robert Duvall for this year's Oscar for best actor in the Academy Awards to be presented on April 9.

Not for 20 years have British screen stars so dominated the field. Michael Caine, aged 50, was nominated for his role as the boozey professor of English teaching fellow Briton Julie Walters, who was nominated for best actress, the finer points of literature in *Educating Rita*.

Albert Finney's nomination was for his role in *The Dresser*, as was Tom Courtenay's. Tom Conti's was for playing Cowan McGilchrist in *Reuben Reuben*. They all face stiff opposition, however from Robert Duvall in *Tender Mercies*.



From top left: Finney, Courtenay, Julie Walters, Caine.

The last time British actors took four of the five best actor nominations was in 1964, Rex Harrison won for *My Fair Lady* against Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton in *Becket* and Peter Sellers in *Dr Strangelove*.

Julie Walters faces the firm favourite, Shirley Maclaine, for *Terms of Endearment* and her co-star, Debra Winger, as well as Meryl Streep for *Silkwood* and Jane Alexander for *Testament*.

The British picture *The Dresser* picked up five nominations including best film and best director for Peter Yates. Yates is up against Ingmar Bergman for *Fanny and Alexander*, Mike Nichols for *Silkwood*, the Australian Bruce Beresford for *Tender Mercies*, and James Brooks for *Terms of Endearment*.

Muslim militias advance on Gemayel's last stronghold

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

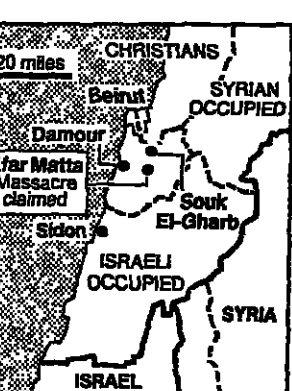
The Lebanese Army withdrew the broken remnants of its Fourth Brigade by sea to East Beirut yesterday, as Druze and Shia Muslim militias threatened to break through the Government Army's last position in the mountains above the capital and advance towards the suburb of Baabda, where the President has his palace.

President Gemayel is believed to have been told through intermediaries yesterday that, if he immediately abrogated the unofficial peace treaty with Israel and instituted reforms, both the Druze and Shia militias would be prepared to restart negotiations.

Last night, however, Christian units of the Lebanese Army were planning new defence lines on the edge of East Beirut itself in preparation for another attack.

Lebanese officials privately dismissed reports from Washington that a new peace plan had been agreed by Mr Gemayel that would immediately replace departing multinational Force troops with UN soldiers.

The American government apparently accepted Mr Gemayel's word that such a plan, supported by the Saudis and the Syrians, was feasible.



Officials here discount the idea as a little more than a daydream.

The fate of the Lebanese Army's Fourth Brigade, however, hangs heavily over both the army command and the Americans. Half the brigade deserted to the militias, but Lebanese Army officers and Western sources insisted yesterday that reinforcements and extra artillery sent south of Beirut by sea had been forbidden to land by Israeli troops.

A Western source also said that the brigade had been demoralized during a counterattack by false radio instructions sent to them over the military radio net. The source refused to speculate about who might have sent these sophisticated messages.

Evidence of village massacre

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

In their advance southwards from Beirut yesterday, Druze militiamen discovered horrifying evidence of the massacre of Druze villagers - apparently by the Christian Palangas - that took place five months ago when the Israelis hurriedly withdrew their army from the Chouf mountains.

The Druze have found dozens of bodies of men, women and children - most of them in an advanced state of decomposition - in and around the village of Kfar Matta, 15 miles south east of the capital.

Blaming both the Phalange and the Lebanese Army for the slaughter, the Druze allowed an American television crew into the village yesterday afternoon. Much of the film they took is too dreadful to show on television.

They found the corpses of women and children in fields around Kfar Matta, skeletons lying in the streets of the village and a whole roomful of corpses upon which lay the badly

decayed body of a woman in a scarf, her hands spread backwards. All the dead had apparently been shot.

The Druze also displayed a crumpled pillowcase partly covered in bloodstains, on which a note had been written by Clarke Todd, the Canadian television reporter who was fatally wounded by shrapnel in the village last September. The message was addressed to his family in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, and said, in very shaky handwriting, "Please tell my family I love them, Clarke." Mr Todd's body was recovered by the International Red Cross last September a week after he died.

Mr Todd, who was accompanied by an American television crew, had gone to the village on the morning of the Israeli withdrawal last September, but was hit in the chest by shrapnel when the crew came under artillery fire. They took him to a barn and before walking back to Beirut under fire.

Mr Todd had ordered them to leave him and they at first thought he had survived. A week later, however, the Red Cross brought his body to Sidon where it was identified by officials of Canadian Television.

Several Druze militiamen said they could identify relatives among the dead. The film brought back to Beirut last night shows one young man with a rifle over his shoulder pointing to what he said was the body of his aunt. In a field beside him lay a skeleton in the remains of a woman's dress, clutching a much smaller skeleton, apparently that of a child. Human bones lay in some streets, at one point next to a torn woman's handbag, at another beside a gutted car. One forearm still had a wrist-watch attached to it.

In many villages in the Chouf last September, the Israelis left their Phalangist allies behind when they withdrew. Rumours began to circulate in Beirut within a few days of massacres.

Thatcher still firm on GCHQ

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Civil Service unions reacted angrily last night to the Prime Minister's apparent rejection in the Commons of the compromise proposals to avoid a union ban at GCHQ which they had put forward in secret talks with Cabinet officials.

Leaders of the nine unions yesterday approved a paper later sent to Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet, in which they set out in detail their proposals. One official said: "We have gone as far as we can."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons that the ban on union membership was the only effective guarantee of national security.

"I have yet to see anything that satisfies me that the Government's objectives can be reached by any other method than that which the Government has laid out."

Mrs Thatcher did say, however, that her offer to meet the unions again stood.

The unions received strong support at a TUC rally last night from Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, who said that during his five years as Foreign Secretary and then Prime Minister, the United States had more than once expressed its admiration for the work of the Cheltenham communications base.

"I must add that during my period of office Cheltenham gave me no reason to be concerned that trade union membership would provoke a conflict of loyalties," Mr Callaghan said.

It appeared last night that the Government's view that union membership at Cheltenham



TUC asks unions to review procedure on Labour Party levy

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Unions are being asked to conduct an immediate review of the system whereby members pay a political levy to the Labour Party as part of a code agreed between the Government and TUC leaders.

Under a statement of guidance published yesterday the TUC would "strongly recommend" to its member unions which are affiliated to the Labour Party that they undertake a reappraisal of the procedures.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, has made it clear that if the code is not endorsed by the General Council of the TUC next Wednesday, or if it does not receive the full cooperation of unions, he would resort to legislation.

The Government had announced its intention to introduce a law changing the present system whereby union members have to "contract out" of the

political levy, to one where Labour supporters would have to make the effort to "contract in."

In meetings between Mr King and Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, a new voluntary code was agreed instead. It was one of the first signs that the Government was prepared to compromise with the labour movement.

Under the statement issued yesterday, which is likely to be endorsed by the General Council, the TUC has promised that union members will be made aware of existing rights and that all the information required to contract out is made easily available. The TUC will act as an adviser to unions which encounter problems in adhering to the new code.

Under the code each union is called on to draw up an information sheet on its political fund, say why it exists and point out that anyone has a

legal right to opt out without losing any union benefits.

The document will be required to state the total amount of the political levy and what proportion it is of; normal subscription fees; information on how to contract out should also be made available.

The information sheet would have to be provided to new recruits, to existing members on request and to all members as soon as practicable after a ballot on the establishment of, and on the continuation of, the fund. The Government is still determined to include in its Bill a clause making regular ballots compulsory.

Unions will have to ensure that no obstacles are put in the way of those seeking to opt out and that "prompt and effective" procedures for exemption operate in accordance with the Trade Union Act, 1913. There should also be a right of access to union accounts.

Amendment agreed to Police Bill

By Peter Townsend, Home Affairs Correspondent

A sizable concession was made by the Government last night in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill over powers to hold people without charge.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Home Affairs, said during the committee stage of the Bill that the Government accepted the need in principle to provide for an extra hearing by magistrates before detention for serious arrestable offences could be extended to a maximum of 96 hours.

Already extension of detention beyond 24 hours has to be authorized by a police superintendent or more senior officer and beyond 36 hours by magistrates, before whom the suspect would have a right to be present and legally represented.

Between that 36-hour stage and the maximum of 96 hours, Mr Hurd now agrees in principle that there should be a second magistrates' hearing. Before an amendment is drafted to the Bill he intends to consult the Magistrates' Association.

But Mr Hurd opposed Opposition attempts to reduce the maximum of 96 hours, he said, was necessary to allow some investigations, of which he cited examples, to be completed.

The Opposition had attacked the 96-hour proposal as a threat to prisoners' right to silence, related to the principle that they were innocent until proved guilty.

Mr Gerald Bermingham, Labour MP for St Helens South and a solicitor, and Ms Clare Short, Labour MP for Birmingham, Ladywood, both spoke of the danger of people confessing to crimes they did not commit.

of which there were already examples.

Mr Hurd said that the Bill did not take away the right to silence. Although there was a right not to answer questions, there was right to ask them, and that was the present position. He denied that it was police practice to wear down people by putting questions repeatedly.

At present detention without charge is open-ended in serious cases. People arrested can be detained for long periods on police authority alone, without any form of judicial sanction.

There are no criteria for the lawfulness of detention, even within the elastic time limits. In certain arrested people can be detained at the sole discretion of the police. Habeas corpus is an ineffective remedy for alleged abuse of police authority, as it provides an independent review too late.

Among safeguards sought by Labour MPs in the present Bill was an amendment denying the right of the police to authorize continuing detention if a person had not consented to answer their questions under detention. Justification for extending detention without charge should not include the need to obtain evidence, by questioning the person held, in relation to an offence for which he was under arrest, the Opposition said.

Bomb attempt

Detectives last night were investigating a firebomb attempt on a new housing estate at Rhyl, north Wales. No one has claimed responsibility for the device, which was dealt with by the army.

Dr Robert Jones claimed last night that murder squad detectives offered him a deal if he confessed to the killing of his wife, Diane, who vanished near their home at Lees Farm, Coggeshall, Essex, on July 23 last year.

Dr Jones, aged 40, said the offer was made during a question and answer session at Ipswich police station, in Suffolk, last November. Dr Jones, who was arrested and held for 55 hours four weeks after his wife's battered body was discovered in October last year, said that at one stage he was tempted to admit the killing.

He made his claim in a recorded interview for the BBC television programme, *Out of Court*, which was due to be shown last night. In the interview recorded earlier yesterday, Dr Jones told the reporter David Jessell, the police had offered him a deal that if he confessed and "made it easy on himself" he would not have to spend too long in jail.

He said the suggestion was made during a long and

exhausting session of questioning and there was a time when he was tempted to perjure himself and admit the killing.

Dr Jones said later: "The police presented a version of events which they suggested could have been how it happened. I suppose the suggestion was that it could have been manslaughter."

Dr Jones's wife, who was 35, disappeared after a row with her husband in the bar of a village public house near their Essex home. He reported her missing nine days later.

Her badly decomposed body was found in woods at Brightwell, Suffolk, three months after she had disappeared. The police believed she had been beaten to death.

During the search for her killer, Dr Jones was questioned on five separate occasions and his garden was searched seven times.

Last night, Detective Chief Supt Eric Shields, head of Suffolk CID, who is leading the murder hunt, refused to comment on the doctor's claims. A report is with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

GLC 'prime candidate for capping'

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, made it clear yesterday that the Greater London Council was a prime candidate for rate capping next year. He said: "At the moment it looks almost inevitable. The GLC's 7.5 per cent rate cut was a fraction of what it should have been."

But he said that a list of councils on which the GLC figured prominently was not a "hit-list" of the first councils to be rate capped. He was commenting outside a meeting of the Commons standing committee on the rates Bill on a list of councils which he had given to all committee members.

The list of 33 councils showed the overspenders in the Government's view according to 11 criteria. Five, including the GLC, overspent under all of the criteria.

Mr William Waldegrave, a parliamentary under-secretary in Mr Jenkin's Department, told the committee that the list should be treated with caution. First, it applied to spending this year, even though rate "capping" was not meant to start until next year when spending patterns might have changed.

Councils overspending under all the criteria on the list were the GLC, Basildon, Greenwich, Islington and Merseyside. Those caught by all but one were North Tyneside, Southwark, Haringey, South Yorkshire and the Inner London Education Authority. Those caught by all but two were Sheffield, Lambeth, Lewisham, and Brent.

The party was unable to produce figures to support its allegation that details of cash given to members were wrong. As the party came under further criticism from the Democratic Unionist and Alliance parties, there was no comment from the party leader, Mr James Molyneux, or staff at its Belfast headquarters.

Since the beginning of the boycott, in protest at the murder of three church elders in co. Armagh, £93,967 has been paid in salary, secretarial allowances and travelling expenses to the party's Assembly members and the disclosure seriously damaging to the party, particularly as it faces European elections within four months.

The Official Unionists were being compared unfavourably yesterday with the Social Democratic and Labour Party and even Provisional Sinn Féin.

At a meeting on Wednesday the strikers decided to stay out until at least Monday

No Acclaim or Rover cars have been made at Cowley since 220 workers in a trim shop walked out more than a week ago in protest at management plans to switch jobs for production to start on the new LM 11 model this spring.

At a meeting on Wednesday the strikers decided to stay out until at least Monday



Harmony restored: Mr Michael Evans (left), leader of Bath's Pump Room trio with colleagues after his reinstatement.

Crescendo saves musician

From David Cross, Bath

Mr Michael Evans, leader of the world's oldest surviving classical trio, was back with his violin yesterday amid the Georgian splendour of Bath's world-famous Pump Room after winning a long fight to save his job.

In a campaign which would have struck a chord with Beau Nash, the self-proclaimed King of Bath who made the city a fashionable centre for the rich in the early eighteenth century, several hundred patrons of the elegant café signed a petition seeking Mr Evans's reinstatement.

After three years as leader of the trio which was featured many times on BBC radio, he

was told last Friday that he would be dismissed for playing too many wrong notes.

Mr Denis Easterby, director of Leisure and Tourist Services in Bath, who gave Mr Evans his notice, said yesterday that Mr Evans's playing was sometimes "terribly shaky, to put it mildly". Very often customers would wince as a wrong note was played.

"My main concern was one of quality," Mr Easterby said. "We are a major tourist city and we must try to make all our entertainment the best available."

Nevertheless, when news of Mr Evans's impending departure leaked, patrons and staff at

the Pump Room rallied to his support.

Miss Katie Giles, aged 19, a waitress said: "We think he is great and we were determined to save him."

Other customers wrote letters of support for Mr Evans to the Department of Leisure and Tourism. Of the 18 received, only one opposed him.

Confronted with this crescendo of anger, the city's spa committee met this week and voted overwhelmingly in favour of retaining Mr Evans's services.

But as a concession to Mr Easterby, they agreed to consider engaging a professional musician to listen to prospective musicians in the future.

Unionists silent on assembly pay row

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The leadership of the official Unionist Party kept an embarrassed silence yesterday as criticism mounted over the £93,967 paid in salaries and expenses to the 25 members who have boycotted the Northern Ireland Assembly since November.

The party was unable to produce figures to support its allegation that details of cash given to members were wrong. As the party came under further criticism from the Democratic Unionist and Alliance parties, there was no comment from the party leader, Mr James Molyneux, or staff at its Belfast headquarters.

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which are also boycotting the Assembly but have refused salaries and allowances.

Mr Jim Allister, chief whip of the Democratic Unionists, said that it was preposterous for the Official Unionists to challenge figures prepared by the Assembly's accounts department.

"When I consider the thousands of my constituents who are struggling to make ends meet then I, with them, feel angry over this scandal."

His party colleague, Mr George Seawright, urged Official Unionists to return the money or resign.

The dispute came hours after Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, made it clear that if the Assembly folded then Northern Ireland would be governed totally by direct rule.

Mr Prior has been asked to explain why prisoners in the Maze jail have been given copies of the official report into last September's escape by 36 IRA terrorists.

Mr Molyneux said: "This is all part of the bungling and mismanagement which has done so much to destroy the morale of the prison service."

Soviet lupin may be grown for fodder

By Kenneth Gosting

Vladimir comes from the Soviet Union and could inspire a revolution in Britain as far as the countryside is concerned.

Vladimir is a particular strain of lupin that is well suited to producing a new protein crop that could in time, become as familiar a sight in British fields as the yellow carpets of oil-seed rape.

It depends, according to Mr David Curry, MEP, chairman of the European Parliament's agricultural committee, on solving the present farm budget problems. Then he says, our plant breeders are likely to receive EEC support.

The lupin, much favoured for its decorative nature, has a protein content of between 35 and 40 per cent, compared with the 24 per cent of peas and beans.

Mr Curry believes that if Europe wants to produce more of its own protein (and it now only manages a quarter of its needs for animal feeds), then it should be looking hard at lupin development.

Australia and Poland are boosting their production; Italy, South Africa and Germany grow limited amounts and the

Soviet Union is a major producer.

Lupins are being evaluated in Essex by Hurst, Gunson, Cooper, Taber, a company of seedsmen who said that it was the strain *lupinus albus*, of which Vladimir is one, that they considered best suited to Britain.

Mr George Beaven, of the company, said: "We are being asked by various other seedsmen and by farmers to supply seed for them to do work on. This is still very much a baby in the arms of an economic crop - with a certain amount of interest, concern and knowledge we should be able to look at it after two to three years."

Mr Curry thinks that the lupin could be the new big crop invasion of Europe, which has to import some £2,600m of soya meal, mainly from the United States and Brazil.

In Hungary, he says, lupins have been introduced in the diet of pigs, poultry and cattle; a mixture of lupins and oats for dairy cattle. And where the lupin has been grown with cereals and potatoes, the need for fertilizer has been cut by up to 20 per cent.

Journalists who incite crimes risk prosecution

By Frances Gibb

Journalists who incite or encourage others to commit criminal offences for journalistic purposes will be liable for prosecution themselves in future, Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General said yesterday.

In a parliamentary answer which outlines a tougher stance on such journalistic activity, Sir Michael said: "I am bound to say that in future I cannot condone such contraventions of the law."

His statement, in answer to a question from Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for South Thanet, comes after conviction last September of Miss Nikki Frend, daughter of Mr Clement Freud, the Liberal MP for Ely, for supplying and possessing controlled drugs.

The offences were initiated or encouraged by a journalist from the *News of the World* which, the Attorney General said, subsequently carried a full report on the front page of the newspaper in exposing the accused's activities.

Prior to publication, the newspaper made its dossier available to the police and the journalist provided a witness statement with a view to the prosecution of Miss Frend.

Sir Michael said: "The Director of Public Prosecutions and I have given anxious consideration to the implications of this form of investigative journalism."

"In our view it would be open to a court to find that a journalist acting in this way had committed criminal offences himself in relation to his incitement of the accused to supply him with controlled drugs and in relation to his subsequent possession of them."

Sir Michael's statement, held back until after several other prosecutions resulting from the same activities by *News of the World* journalists, is made "for the benefit of other newspapers considering a similar course of action."

Evidence as to their actions would be assessed with a view to possible prosecution on the same principles as the evidence against others who are not journalists, the Attorney General said.

An official in his department said: "Until now I have not been aware of journalists being prosecuted. The point of this statement is to make clear that they have no special immunity and that there are limits to which investigative journalism can go."

Shooting of animals defended

By Richard Evans

A leading naval surgeon who served in the Falklands conflict yesterday defended the need for animals to be shot for research into treating wounds.

Commander Rick Jolly, who ran the field hospital at Ajax Bay, said: "We don't like seeing animals suffer any more than anybody else, but the research carried out at Porton Down definitely had a beneficial effect of surgeons at the front line, which was reflected in the high survival rate."

I know something about the licensing system for those who do experiments and I am satisfied from what I have seen the control is rigorous and humanely exercised.

"As a military surgeon, you always want to know things work properly before you use them, especially with drugs."

In particular, he pointed to the dramatic impact that a drug tested on shot animals had had during the Falklands conflict. Metronidazole was given with great success to soldiers who had been shot in the stomach or suffered shrapnel wounds.

About 10,000 animals were used last year in Ministry of Defence experiments, but only about 50 involved the deliberate wounding of animals.

Correction

The funeral service at Badminton for the Duke of Beaufort, reported on February 9, was conducted by the Rev Tom Gibson, Vicar of Badminton, the duke's chaplain, not by the Rev Thomas Thomas.

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Mrs Joan Le Mesurier with three actors from *Dad's Army* (left to right) Ian Lavender, Bill Pertwee and Frank Williams (Photograph: John Voos).

Last laugh for actor who 'conked out'

John Le Mesurier gave hundreds of his friends and fellow actors a final laugh yesterday at his memorial service; tales about the man who in his own words "conked out" last November kept them in stitches.

After the service at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London, known as the actors' church, his widow, Joan, said: "It was a celebration of John's conking out."

"There was plenty of laughter. John would have enjoyed

that I can imagine him sitting up there smiling."

The addresses were given by two of Mr Le Mesurier's closest actor friends, Bill Pertwee and Edith Evans. Mr Le Mesurier as Sgt Wilson and Mr Pertwee as the air raid warden, became household names in the television series *Dad's Army*.

Others paying their respects included Derek Nimmo, Joan Sims and Wendy Richards, the jazz musician, George Melly, the comedian, Max Wall, and Ned Sherrin.

Mr Le Mesurier, who died in hospital in his own town of Ramsgate at the age of 71, had been suffering from cirrhosis of the liver.

He wrote his own obituary for *The Times*: "John Le Mesurier wishes it to be known that the conked out on November 15. He sadly misses his family and friends."

He appeared in more than 90 films including *School for Scoundrels*, *The Wrong Arm of the Law*, and *The Pink Panther*. Memorial service, page 14

MI5 officer's lawyers lose challenge to secret hearing

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The public and the press are to be excluded from almost the entire trial of Michael Bettaney, the MI5 officer facing espionage charges, the Central Criminal Court decided in camera yesterday.

When Mr Bettaney, aged 33, of Coulsdon, Surrey, starts his trial on April 10 with not guilty pleas, the jury will be sworn in, the charges put and Sir Michael Havers QC, the Attorney General, will open the Crown's case but then the rest of the case will be in camera.

Mr Bettaney's solicitor, Mr Lawrence Grant, said after the hearing before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, that the court would not be opened again until the jury returned its verdict.

The trial is expected to last eight working days and all the evidence, witnesses, the judge's summing up, and much of counsel's speeches will be behind closed doors.

Mr Grant said the use of the in-camera process to such an extent was unprecedented and had been agreed by the judge after an application by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions. Other decisions had also been taken.

Mr Grant said that defence

counsel had argued against the DDP's application in a hearing which lasted nearly four hours in court number one. The hearing, listed to take practice trial directions, began in chambers and was then moved into camera.

Mr Bettaney was brought from Brixton prison for the hearing. He was represented in court by Mr Michael Mansfield and Mr Kenneth Richardson appeared for the Crown. Sup John Westcott, from the Special Branch, was also in court.

The application of in camera proceedings so widely is likely to cause concern in legal circles.



Mr Bettaney: Facing six charges.

There is no means of appeal for the defence until the case has been completed.

Mr Bettaney faces a total of six charges under the Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920. It is alleged that he passed on details of British assessments of the Soviet Union's intelligence networks in Britain details of the expulsion of three Russians, and prepared other material to hand over to the Russians in 1983.

It is unusual for a defendant in such a case to plead not guilty but where it has happened in recent years, such as in the trial of Professor Hugh Hambleton in 1982, the court went into camera for only part of the case.

In cases where the accused have pleaded guilty, such as Geoffrey Prime, part of the hearings were heard in camera. The periods have covered areas such as an assessment of the damage done to national security. In Security Service, Special Intelligence Service, and MI6 witnesses.

After the hearing yesterday a spokesman for the DPP said he was unable to comment on what had happened at the hearing or the potential use of the in camera practice.



Benjie Leggate, aged six, with his pony Doughnut, and Jason, a Great Dane. (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

Gatecrasher in tussle at royal event

By Richard Evans

A man in his early thirties tried to force his way into the Royal Society of Arts headquarters in London yesterday minutes before the Prince of Wales arrived for the launching of a £500,000 appeal for the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Trust.

The man approached the reception desk, where Miss Lesley Sands asked for his invitation.

The man, who was wearing an extraordinary green wool tie cosy hat and had a chain tucked into his trousers, refused to produce and invitation and said he represented a lot of organizations.

Mr Will Dawson, the trust's director, tried to find out who he was. "He wouldn't speak; he

wouldn't show any identification. He kept trying to hang up his coat and leave his briefcase. He hadn't got an invitation card and I said that I was sorry but he had to leave."

The man, wearing a smart grey suit, soon became violent and the police were called.

One policeman was punched in the face and three officers lost their helmets as the man was dragged struggling and protesting from the front foyer and down the street to a police van. When he reached the van five policemen were restraining him.

The Prince, who arrived moments after the man was taken to Bow Street police station, was informed later of the incident.

Man rescued by helicopter after forest cleared

A young forestry worker who was seriously injured when a tractor he was driving toppled over on a steep hill and rolled twice before he was thrown clear, was rescued by helicopter when his workmates cleared a patch of dense woodland to create a landing space.

Help was summoned from a farmhouse, but the forest at Halden Belvedere, near Donchicock, Devon, was so thick that ambulancemen could not find them.

A police helicopter found the man but could not land. However, the helicopter landed a mile away and a doctor reached Mr Philip England, aged 20. The site was then cleared and the helicopter landed to collect Mr England.

Libel damages awarded to nightclub owners

Allegations that the Tramp nightclub in the West End of London was a disreputable establishment patronized by vulgar and low-grade people won its owners and manager "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday.

The allegations appeared in the In Town column of *The Standard* newspaper in January and February, 1981.

The column's editor, Richard Compton Miller, had said the club was patronized by models that never model, actresses that never act and "larty little pieces". He also made an offensive reference to the manager, Mr John Gold.

Mr Richard Rampton for Mr Gold and the owners, Coney Island Ltd, told Mr Justice Comyn they had been proud of Tramp's reputation.

Council drive on rogue landlords 'succeeding'

Westminster City Council's campaign against bad landlords has met with considerable success, it was disclosed yesterday.

On Tuesday AMK (Property Management) became the first company to be convicted under the Protection from Eviction Act, 1977, when it was found guilty of unlawful harassment.

Southwark Crown Court was told that elderly residents at an apartment block in Mayfair were forced to put up with constant drilling, walls being knocked down, windows smashed, and the "accidental" flooding of their homes. AMK was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £11,500 prosecution costs. Defence costs are expected to exceed £100,000.

Mr Simon Mabey a councillor, said the authority was delighted with the result of the trial and gave a warning to "rogue landlords". He added: "We are even more determined to bring to task those who think tenants just to make quick profits."

Conditions were made unbearable at Fountain House, Park Lane, by the property company in an attempt to persuade tenants to leave during a campaign of harassment between 1980 and March, 1982.

The court was told that the

company, financed by Shaikh Abdul Khoja, who is said to own 60 companies in Britain, could make up to £7m profit from the sale of all the apartments. Empty flats are being sold for between £200,000 and £750,000.

The two men who previously ran the company on behalf of the Shaikh, Mr Andrew Lawson and Mr Bruce Harlow, have since resigned. They both denied in court that AMK had deliberately set out to evict tenants by making their lives a misery.

One tenant, Mrs Natalie Spiegel, a dressmaker in her sixties, kept a diary of the years of misery she went through after AMK bought the property in 1979. She told the court how the lights were constantly going out, the water supply was cut off for more than a month, her hallway was piled high with rubble and her workroom was destroyed by the builders.

Mrs Spiegel, who has lived in her flat for 26 years, described how she could not hold a conversation or use the telephone because of the constant noise.

She said: "From early morning and long after I returned from work they were drilling. The vibrations caused ornaments and perfumes to crash to the ground day after day."

BBC wins news awards

The BBC won the Royal Television Society's domestic news award last night for its coverage of the resignation of Cecil Parkinson. Mr John Tuss, of the BBC Newsnight, won the award for television journalism of the year.

Other winners were: *Coast to Coast* (TVS), daily news magazine; ITN, international news for its Beirut coverage; *TV Eye* (Thames), home current affairs for *Here Come Cruise, Panorama* (BBC), international current affairs, for *Called To Account - How Roberto Calvi Died*. A special commendation, went to Peter Hill, producer, and Martin Young, reporter, for the BBC series *Rough Justice*.

Judge settles £163,000 claim

Mr Justice Leggatt, a High Court judge, who claimed he had lost at least £163,000 in earnings because of injuries suffered in a road crash, won an undisclosed award in the High Court yesterday.

Sir Andrew Leggatt, aged 53, of The Old Vicarage, Old Woking, Surrey, was one of three highest-earning commercial law QCs.

Sir Andrew sued H R Goodale, of Little New Street, London EC4, owners of a lorry which collided with a taxi in which he was a passenger, and the lorry driver, Mr Paul Owen Brown.

A young aged 18 opened fire on police in Bristol yesterday and then shot himself in the head in front of dozens of bystanders near the city centre.

The shooting happened minutes after the owner of a gunshop in Perry Road was shot twice in the stomach with a 9mm pistol.

The youth underwent emergency surgery to remove a bullet from his ribcage and both he and the shopowner, Mr Brian Winterton, aged 49, were said to be in serious conditions last night.

Two policemen, who had been alerted to the first shooting and saw a youth running towards them in the city centre, chased him after he fired at them.

Mr Russell Drewitt, a building worker, said he saw the youth fire at the police and then run into a side street.

"He came running up the hill obviously in a panic. He fiddled with his gun, then put it to his face and there was a shot and he slumped to the ground."

Another builder, Mr Adrian Snook, said: "It looked as if the bullet went through his mouth and came out behind his ear."

The police have ruled out robbery as the motive for shooting the shopowner and believe it may have started with a dispute over a gun deal.

Riders bring in £4,000 for charity

Once a year the Leggate family of Gordon in Berwick raises funds for such local charities as the Edinburgh Eye Pavilion.

The last effort, a 20 mile sponsored horseback ride by people who had not ridden for 10 years, raised £4,000. Benjie Leggate, aged six, raised £200 with his sister Kate, aged nine, his pony Doughnut and a friend's Great Dane called Jason.

Benjie's father Mr Peter Leggate, said yesterday: "We were very happy with the proceeds but if anyone wants to send us any more donations we would be happy to have them."

Royal tour

Princess Anne left Rabat for The Gambia on the second stage of her tour of three African countries as president of the Save the Children fund.

Court use of school reports criticized

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Young offenders may be receiving heavier sentences than they deserve because of the use of school reports in juvenile court proceedings, according to a report published today by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

It says that the school reports sometimes contain damaging and unsubstantiated allegations of criminal behaviour and pejorative remarks that would never be allowed in an adult court.

The examples it cites include: "Jimmy is a cancer to the student body. If he didn't commit this offence, then someone else in his family did"; "this boy is a born liar"; and "this boy is big, black and smelly".

A working party of the association found that such school reports were often kept secret from parents, children, and even lawyers.

There were also wide variations in practice across the country as to what should be disclosed and to whom.

Miss Vivien Sierra, director of the association, said: "Many young people suffer serious injustice as a result of remarks in these reports."

The working party calls for a change in the Magistrates' Courts Rules, 1970, to require full disclosure of the contents of school reports to pupils and parents.

Schools, it says, should not recommend sentences. They should use a standardized form for school reports so that only relevant information is included and the report, signed by the author and school head, should be discussed with the child and parents before the court hearing.

School Reports in the Juvenile Court (Nacro, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU; £3).

Cable giant ready to reveal film programme details

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The three potential programme giants of cable television are on the verge of revealing the schedules they hope will attract an audience on a par with BBC or independent television.

The plans have been compiled in an atmosphere of secrecy and intrigue, which an executive compared to the launching of a car. But the first details will be disclosed on Thursday, when The Entertainment Network is expected to announce a big-name feature film channel through existing Rediffusion and Visionhire networks from March 1.

The decision by Entertainment Network to jump the gun will be closely watched by its two rivals which were reluctant to give away anything yesterday.

Mr Tony Watts, head of Thorn-EMI's film channel, which will be called Premiere, said that the information about programme schedules was commercially sensitive.

Mr Dennis Garcher, vice-president of the US cable group Home Box Office, which is involved in its British partnership with Goldcrest Television, 20th Century Fox and Columbia, Television Entertainment Group, said: "This is rather like introducing a new model of car and we are trying to keep things pretty much under wraps."

All three groups plan to establish the leading film service on existing and new cable networks. Cable operators believe that the film channel will attract most subscribers and be most profitable.

Mr Watts revealed that Premiere will be the only one of the three to make its own material, although he refused to disclose their subjects or casts.

All three groups are acutely

aware that they will live or die by two factors: quality of films and the way they use the gaps between them.

Premiere had shot several short bridging programmes to link films, Mr Watts said. "There will be some conventional scheduling and some that is different to what you see at the moment. It is going to be a high-quality movie channel, with no old films at all."

"The main criticism of cable is that all it is going to carry is American crap, and that won't be the case with us."

Thorn-EMI and The Entertainment Network, a consortium of Rank, Plessey, Rediffusion and UIP, a joint venture of several Hollywood film companies, have one significant advantage over Television Entertainment Group. Both outfits have member companies running cable networks.

They can expect to move straight on to cable as soon as programmes are ready, unlike TEG which must negotiate its way.

Mr Garcher said yesterday that the company was negotiating with several of the 11 new cable companies which were given licences to start new networks throughout the country last year.

"Our service will be film-based, coupled with entertainment specials, but we are going to wait as long as possible before we announce film details."

Independent television companies believe that the networks will offer films until around 2am, where there is a proven audience, but they cannot serve because overtime payments to technical staff would be too high.

Trawlermen fined £34,000

Two Danish trawler skippers who fished illegally for mackerel inside prohibited waters around south-west England, were each fined £17,000 by Plymouth magistrates yesterday. They were the first prosecutions under new fishery protection rules.

Per Kristiansen and Ib Poul Bodskov both admitted trawling for mackerel inside the "mackerel box" off the Devon and Cornwall coastline.

The area was established last November to help to preserve fish resources. Under EEC rules trawlers are allowed no more than 15 per cent mackerel among catches made inside the box. Mr Anthony Collin, for the prosecution, said that Bodskov's boat, the Anni Elisabeth, had 54 per cent mackerel and Kristiansen's vessel, the Alice Engham, had 24 per cent on board.

When the defendants asked the magistrates to accept £20,000 towards the fine and allow them to pay the balance later, the magistrates decided that was not acceptable. The matter was adjourned until today to allow the Danes to raise the money.

Tricksters dupe unemployed

Police are hunting tricksters who swindled hundreds of unemployed men out of cash by promising them well-paid work abroad.

The fraud was aimed at the unemployed in the North and in Scotland. Tempting advertisements offering good jobs in Abu Dhabi for building workers, were placed in provincial newspapers.

Applicants were invited to send £250 as a "flight indemnity", which, they were told, would be returned along with £400 expensed on arrival in the United Arab Emirates.

But the flight did not materialize and the jobs did not exist. As many as 1,000 people replied to the advertisements and Scotland Yard believes many could have sent cash and cheques.

Witnesses in their early forties set up a company called CP Limited based in the Broadway, Fulham, west London.

Job applicants were asked to send a cheque for £250 or cash in a registered letter to Al Charter, Priory House, Kingsgate Place, Hampstead, north-west London.

Wife tells jury of murder plot by Hell's Angels

The former mistress of the self-styled leader of a band of Hell's Angels told a murder jury yesterday of a plot to kill her husband that misfired.

Mrs Susan Turner said that her husband's car had been booby-trapped to explode when the lights were switched on, but the device failed.

She told Northampton Crown Court that those responsible were Mr Michael Bardell, aged 30, of the Hell's Angels "President Chapter" known as Lucifer's outlaws, and his second-in-command referred to as "sergeant at arms", Mr Stephen Parkinson.

Mrs Turner, a mother of two, said that after the alleged murder attempt her husband had a telephone call from Mr Bardell and the two men agreed to meet. Later that evening her husband telephoned her and she found him leaning against a phone box. He had been stabbed, she said.

After the stabbing it was agreed that she should live with Mr Bardell during the week and

her husband at weekends, she said part of the deal was that her husband would leave Northampton by midnight each Sunday.

Mr Bardell, of Overstone Lodge, Northampton and Mr Parkinson, of Great Holme Court, Northampton, deny conspiracy to murder Mr Turner. They have also pleaded not guilty to murdering Miss Deborah Allen, aged 19, and her boyfriend, Mr David Cox, aged 23, after luring them to Saley Forest in 1982.

It has been alleged that the killings were to enhance the standing of the chapter within the Hell's Angels movement and had been ordered by the London-based "Road Rats".

Mrs Turner said yesterday that Mr Bardell had shown her a Polaroid photograph of what he said were the bodies of Mr Cox and Miss Fallon. The picture was supposed to be proof for the Rats that their instructions had been carried out, she said.

The trial continues.

Youth opens fire on police

A youth aged 18 opened fire on police in Bristol yesterday and then shot himself in the head in front of dozens of bystanders near the city centre.

The shooting happened minutes after the owner of a gunshop in Perry Road was shot twice in the stomach with a 9mm pistol.

The youth underwent emergency surgery to remove a bullet from his ribcage and both he and the shopowner, Mr Brian Winterton, aged 49, were said to be in serious conditions last night.

Two policemen, who had been alerted to the first shooting and saw a youth running towards them in the city centre, chased him after he fired at them.

Mr Russell Drewitt, a building worker, said he saw the youth fire at the police and then run into a side street.

"He came running up the hill obviously in a panic. He fiddled with his gun, then put it to his face and there was a shot and he slumped to the ground."

Another builder, Mr Adrian Snook, said: "It looked as if the bullet went through his mouth and came out behind his ear."

The police have ruled out robbery as the motive for shooting the shopowner and believe it may have started with a dispute over a gun deal.



Brave postmaster: Mr Dildar Sandhu with replica sword

Raiders flee sword duel

A sub-postmaster, Mr Dildar Sandhu, described yesterday how he fought off two masked raiders armed with a sword and dagger.

Mr Sandhu, aged 53 a Sikh, who trained in swordsmanship as a child, snapped off a piece of sword blade to fence with one intruder. After a desperate duel they fled.

Mr Sandhu, of Chelsea Road, Bristol, said that the raiders burst in at 3.30 one morning last May.

"One put a sword against my throat. I said: 'What do you want?' They said 'We want money.' These words were encouraging because I thought: 'They are after money, not my life.'"

"He was a tense person and it was peanuts for me to work on him."

Mr Sandhu was presented with a £500 bravery award by the chairman of the Post Office, Mr Ron Dearing, in London yesterday.

Ex-editor denies stories 'reeked of sex'

Mr Derek Jameson, the former Fleet Street editor, denied yesterday that stories in the *Daily Star* about Mrs Soraya Khashoggi had "reeked of sex".

Mr Jameson, aged 54, who is suing the BBC and an executive for libel, was being cross-examined in the High Court in London.

He seeks damages over the broadcast on March, 1980, of the Radio 4 comedy series *Week Ending*, which described him as "an East End boy made good" and claimed that his policy was "all the nudes fit to print".

Mr Jameson was asked by Mr John Wilmer, QC, for the BBC, about reports in the *Daily Star* on the life of Mrs Khashoggi, the former wife of the international arms dealer, Mr Adnan Khashoggi.

He said that parts of the story in which Mrs Khashoggi was quoted describing how she was "not sexually fulfilling but rather asexual. He did not think they reeked of sex."

He said he carried the Soraya Khashoggi revelations because they represented "one of the major stories of the year."

"There is very little explicit sex in these articles," he added. The *Daily Star* had paid Mrs Khashoggi £75,000 for her story, but she tore the cheque up because at the time she was making a multi-million pound maintenance claim against her former husband, Mr Jameson said.

Mr Jameson was questioned about an election day front-page article in the *Daily Express* which he had written

when he was editor. The article advocated voting Conservative.

Mr Wilmer asked: "Did that represent your own personal belief?"

Mr Jameson: "No, sir."

Mr Wilmer: "It would not be written from your heart?"

Mr Jameson: "Indeed."

The BBC and Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Radio at the time of the broadcast, deny libel and say the words complained of by Mr Jameson were fair comment on a matter of public interest.

Mr Jameson said he found a *Week Ending* sketch about the battle between the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Star* over the Khashoggi story which had been played to the court "totally utterly offensive and insulting and not at all funny."

The hearing continues today.

Ban on trade unions the only guarantee

GCHQ DISPUTE

The Government remained convinced that banning trade union membership at the Cheltenham communications headquarters was the only effective guarantee to meet the Government's objectives, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister said during her first question time in the Commons since returning from Russia.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, joined in the laughter when she said that down after questioning Mrs Thatcher about her attitude to GCHQ, several Conservative backbench MPs held up large sheets of paper bearing the figures 0.1. This was a rejoinder to Mr Kinnock's comment when he had given himself 5.9 out of 6 for his performance during his visit to the United States.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, called for order, commenting amid laughter: "We are not yet being televised."

There was also laughter when Mr Kinnock said he would give the Prime Minister, who had been speaking with a hoarse voice, the name of a good lounge, Mr John Biffen, leader of the House, announced that MPs will debate GCHQ issue on Monday, February 27.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry North West, Lab) began by asking Mrs Thatcher if she had read the unanimous all-party select committee report on the trade union situation at GCHQ.

The reckless bungling by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary (he said) has caused enormous and unnecessary damage to the international standing of our security system and to the individual employees.

The six point programme in the recommendations of the report represents a reasoned and constructive basis for an agreement to be reached.

There were interruptions from MPs as Mr Robinson spoke and The Speaker told MPs: "The Prime Minister is evidently suffering from a cold and I hope the House will have consideration."

Mrs Thatcher: I note that the committee endorsed the Government's objectives but take a different view of how to achieve them.

The committee is entitled to its view but we remain convinced that the Government's approach provides the only effective guarantee to meet those objectives.

Intelligence agencies have been treated differently by successive governments.

Mr Kinnock began: Can I sympathize with the Prime Minister with her throat difficulty. I promise privately to offer the name of a very good lounge which I have found to be efficacious.

He told Mrs Thatcher: On the vexed subject of GCHQ, the Civil Service unions have offered firm guarantees against disruption and they will be reaffirmed at the forthcoming meeting with the Prime Minister.

The select committee produced not only a constructive but a unanimous report. In the light of these developments, does she not realize that failure to adopt a course like the one suggested by the select committee would be to abandon fair play and commonsense and to neglect the national interest?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government will consider the select committee report but remains convinced that the decisions announced on January 25 remain the only effective guarantee of our objectives, which the committee endorsed.

Mr Kinnock: Clearly they are not the only effective guarantees. Does Mrs Thatcher think that anybody in the trade unions or in the select committee wanted any less than she to safeguard properly the security of this country?

Will she not realize for once that there are alternative courses of

wisdom and that they can be secured by the processes of democracy and do not require to be made under the duress that she is inflicting at GCHQ?

Mrs Thatcher repeated that the committee had endorsed the objectives.

It said (she continued) that Government had to be satisfied that those objectives could be reached and I have yet to see anything which satisfies me (Labour interruptions) as head of the Government and therefore responsible for security services, that those objectives can be reached by any other method than that which the Government has laid out.

I have said I would see the trade unions again and I shall.

Mr John Gort (Hendon North, C): Will she give an assurance that there are contingency plans made to meet the Government rather than trade union inspired disruption that could well result after March 1 if there is no agreement on either the basis of the select committee's report or her own plans?

Mrs Thatcher: As one of the problems has been the selective disruption from 1979 to 1981 and as everyone is interested in keeping security, I trust there will be no disruption.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C): Is it not remarkable that during all of the many exchanges which have taken place across the floor of the House on GCHQ since January 25, not a single member on any of the Opposition benches has uttered a word of condemnation of the industrial activity which disrupted activities there, including those activities which took place between February and April 1979, when Dr David Owen had direct ministerial responsibility for these matters?

Mrs Thatcher: It is quite true that GCHQ was specially targeted for disruption because those who targeted it in the Civil Service unions knew that disruption there would be very damaging to the

Thatcher: Hoarse voice

Kinnock: Rated only 0.1

national interest. I shall be very grateful if Opposition MPs would condemn that action, if only in retrospect.

During exchanges following the announcement that there would be a debate on GCHQ on Monday, February 27, MPs demanded that there should be an opportunity to vote on the issue rather than merely discussing it on the motion to adjourn.

Mr Kinnock asked whether the debate would be on the motion to adjourn or on a Government motion. He said that the type of debate would make a difference to the kind of response in the House.

Mr Biffen, Lord President of the Council, said the form of the motion would be considered through the usual channels between the parties, but clearly the report of the Select Committee on Employment would be a feature of the debate.

Mr Mariya Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab) a former Home

Secretary, surely we are not going to have a debate on the adjournment about GCHQ. There have been a report of a select committee, statements from Number 10, statements outside. This House has to have a view. I hope there will be a vote a week next Monday.

Mr Biffen: I understand that point. It is a matter for consideration through the usual channels.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton, South, SDP): Will Mr Biffen give a commitment that the Government, despite the Prime Minister's comments today will not finally make up its mind before the debate.

If the Government is not prepared to budge on this, living in the face of unprecedented moves by the unions to try to accommodate the Government, they will be encouraging non-cooperation at GCHQ as the only means of achieving the goals of the trade unions in this matter.

Mr Biffen: I am not going to argue on the content of policy.

Deal on political levy

Legislation on the payment of trade union political levies will only be introduced if it is agreed with the TUC fails in practice.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP) asked: Has she abandoned her previously expressed view that it is wrong in principle to have to opt out of paying the trade union levy?

Mrs Thatcher: We have not. We will find in our manifesto, which won a further considerable majority, we said we would try to reach voluntary agreement with the trade unions.

The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Tom King) believed he has reached such agreement with the TUC. If that agreement is effective, then that will be the end of the matter. If, in practice, that agreement is not effective, then we shall have to legislate.

Brittan refuses to be drawn on searches

POLICING

Opposition MPs unsuccessfully sought clarification from Mr Lord Brittan, the Home Secretary, at Commons question time on why police officers had searched the home and bicycle bags of Mr Duncan Campbell, the investigative journalist.

Mr Brittan repeated that the warrant under which Mr Campbell's premises were searched was issued by the court, and that he was not answerable for the actions of the court.

The powers exercised by the police (he said) are ones which are challengeable in the courts in any case, and that they have been suggested.

Exchanges on the subject began when Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab) asked Mr Brittan if he was aware of the considerable concern over the way the papers and diaries of Mr Campbell had been searched arising from an accident on his bicycle.

Is it not time (he continued) that the Government recognized that we live in a democratic country and that there are basic civil liberties to be respected, even by the Home Secretary and the authorities?

Mr Brittan: He is right in drawing attention to the question of civil liberties. It is for that reason that the warrant under which Mr Campbell's premises were searched was issued by the court in response to an application under the rule of law.

Later Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North, Lab) asked if when Mr Brittan last met the Metropolitan Police Commissioner he had asked him why officers raided the premises of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth in order to seize documents and why they took a document relating to the disposal of radioactive waste at Billingham in Cleveland?

Mr Brittan: If there is any suggestion that everything that was done was not in accordance with the law it can be challenged in the normal way.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): Explanations of that sort and the one involving Mr Campbell give rise to great concern that the police are going on general fishing expeditions in order to obtain information.

Will Mr Brittan discuss this with the Commissioner and after doing so consider if it is necessary to introduce further amendments to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to ensure that general fishing expeditions by the police do not take place?

Mr Brittan: I very much doubt that amendments to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will arise from these matters. There is certainly nothing in the Bill that should lead to the view that the position Mr Wrigglesworth is anxious about is rendered in any sense worse, but I will consider the points he makes.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab): Does he know why the courts gave authority to the police to rifle through the home and bicycle bags of Mr Campbell? Does he know who knocked Mr Campbell off his bicycle?

Mr Brittan: The answer to the second question is "No". The answer to the first is that I am not answerable for the actions of the courts.

It would be a dangerous step if the House were to expect ministers of the Crown to account for the actions of the courts, which are, and rightly, independent.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: His answers about these police raids are totally unacceptable. He seeks to shuffle off his responsibility. He is the police authority for the Metropolitan Police.

By what justification did the police photo-copy the contents book of Mr Campbell? By what justification are the police developing this dangerous tendency to go on fishing expeditions?

Will Mr Brittan inquire into these aspects? Will he tell us, the Commissioner of this is England and not South Africa.

Mr Brittan: I do not think the Commissioner needs any lessons from Mr Kaufman about what country we are in. He has done a great service to the people of London in reducing the level of crime.

I made it quite clear that the powers exercised by the police are ones which are challengeable in the courts if anyone suspects that they have been exceeded. The obtaining of warrants from the courts is something the courts have the right to decide.

Winnick: There are basic civil liberties

be respected, even by the Home Secretary and the authorities?

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Geoffrey Smith

Mr John Gummer has been an unlucky chairman of the Conservative Party so far. To some extent that was predetermined by the timing of his appointment.

The person who takes over a party machine immediately after a massive election victory is almost certain to see it slide downhill a bit. The powers and the glory have been won now is the time for the reaction.

At least one Cabinet minister was afraid last summer that he might be offered the appointment himself. There would be just time to lose a string of by-elections over the next couple of years, and then somebody else would be brought in to win the next general election.

Perhaps Mr Gummer has occasional nightmares that this may be his fate.

To make matters worse, he took over just in time to inherit the tawdry publicity of the Parkinson episode. Everybody will remember last October's Blackpool conference for Mr Parkinson's departure, not for Mr Gummer's arrival.

Now Mr Gummer is attracting some publicity that he could well do without for his part in the row over the *Panorama* programme on extremist infiltration into the Conservative Party. He has issued a denial that his warning of "very serious action" was a threat against the BBC, and one must take his word for it. In which case it was meaningless.

Careless words cost reputations

That Mr Gummer should object to the programme was not surprising. That he should have felt it necessary to protest forcibly was equally understandable: his party would have been out for his blood if he had failed to do so.

But the way in which Mr Gummer expressed his resentment landed Mr John Biffen in some embarrassment this week when he was standing in for Mrs Thatcher during Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons.

It is perhaps a little bit more than bad luck on Mr Gummer that this episode should have attracted so much attention. Careless words cost reputations in politics. But it would still be a pity if Mr Gummer's stewardship as chairman of the party was not seen in broader context.

At Central Office he has shown himself to be a diligent, efficient and eager administrator. The word "eager" is one that is hard to find in describing Mr Gummer. It accounts for many of his strengths and his failings.

He is an absolute contrast to the late Reggie Maudling, whose perorations at party conferences were gems of sustained anti-climax, but who was one of the most formidable political performers of his day on television. Whether on the platform or in the studio he was always so relaxed.

Gummer lacks calm authority

Mr Gummer is not relaxed. This gives a vitality to his public speeches but also makes him somewhat unsettling on television.

His speech to the Blackpool conference was no more than an exercise in political acrobatics, but it was decidedly accomplished, knockabout, witty and stirring to a party in travail.

On television, however, he is liable to appear too excited, as he did in the *Panorama* programme. He does not have a television face.

This is another way of saying that in the intimate circumstances of the television screen he lacks the calm of a seasoned authority. Perhaps that is not surprising because he has not been given the seniority appropriate to the chairman of the Conservative Party. He is the first person, at least since the Second World War, to combine the roles of chairman and junior minister.

Mr Parkinson was a junior minister when he was appointed, but once in office he took his place around the Cabinet table. That is where the chairman of the party ought to be.

Lord Thorneycroft was a much more effective chairman when the Conservatives were in opposition, and he took part in the weekly meetings of the shadow cabinet, than he was when they returned to government and he was unwilling to join the Cabinet.

But while it is bad enough if the chairman is outside the Cabinet, it is still worse if he is serving in a subordinate capacity within the Government.

If a person is a fitting chief to be chairman of the party he is worthy of being appointed to Cabinet rank.

Present law defers rather than deters

DIVORCE BILL

The objectives of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill were to enable the hollow shell of a marriage which had broken down to be dissolved with the minimum of distress, bitterness and humiliation, balanced against a respect for the institution of marriage. Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said in the Commons.

The Bill proposes that a court faced with a financial application after a divorce should consider in every case whether it would be appropriate to make an order finalising the parties' obligations to one another, either at once or after a period of adjustment. This is the principle of the clean break.

It also reduces the three year period before a divorce is permissible to one year and provides for financial relief or related powers in matrimonial and other family proceedings.

He said the reduction from three years to one year was designed to avoid the harm caused by the longer period which encouraged adultery and the birth of illegitimate children when a marriage broke down within a short period.

The Bill removed at the same time the discretionary exceptions to the three year rule of exceptional depravity and hardship. That had resulted in an amicable solution of proceedings not being achieved and allegations that could be harmful to young children. Because the outcome of an applicant in such grounds was unpredictable, couples were advised against it even in extreme cases.

The effect of the present rule tended to defer rather than deter divorce.

It was an illusion, or rather a delusion, to believe it possible to make a marriage endure when it had broken down by imposing a temporary bar.

Some commentators favoured the complete abolition of a restrictive period, as is the law in Scotland. This would make it possible to marry today and present a petition for divorce tomorrow.

If we were starting with a clean slate (he said) then this might be the position to follow. But we are following the Law Commission's recommendation that some form of restriction is needed to deter irresponsible or child marriages and set a barrier to a divorce marriage through difficult early days.

There would continue to be only one round for divorce - irrevocable breakdown by establishing adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

where to disregard it would be offensive to justice.

Provisions would encourage the courts to give priority to financial claims between the parties sometimes immediately and sometimes after an interval. Those provisions did not apply to financial orders where there were children.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) intervened to ask if, as a result of the Bill, the Attorney General thought the institution of marriage would be strengthened or weakened.

Sir Michael Havers said the Bill got rid of the abomination of having to apply for leave by establishing exceptional depravity, which was hated by judges, counsel and others who had to deal with it. He thought the Bill made it a much cleaner operation and was much less likely to induce people to lie. If that was right, it could only do good to the proposition of the sanctity of marriage.

Mr John Morris, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said body after body over the years had recommended the establishment of family courts. There was no greater clog in the way of change than his existing institutions. Self-interest kept into action to argue why something could not be done.

A change in the institutions would allow a different approach, and the activities of the Supplementary Benefits Commission and the courts would not continue as though there was no connection between their respective roles. The changes proposed merely played with the problem. There was also an absence of provision for proper conciliation machinery.

If we believe in the importance of preserving marriage (he said) a fraction of the resources given to destroying marriage should be spent trying to preserve some of them.

Low pay levels motion rejected

The Opposition motion condemning the Government for deliberately fostering low pay levels and calling on it to abandon its threat to abolish wages councils was rejected in the Commons on Wednesday night by 289 votes to 196 - Government majority, 90.

Mr David Owen, leader of the SDP, (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP) said: "The Government's policy of deliberately fostering low pay levels and calling on it to abandon its threat to abolish wages councils was rejected in the Commons on Wednesday night by 289 votes to 196 - Government majority, 90."

Councils' performance to be monitored

Civil defence had to be able to deal with a wide range of possible forms of attack on this country and in such an event the lives of millions of people could depend on the planning and training of CD workers Mr Douglas Hard, Minister of State, Home Office, said during Commons question time.

Answering a question on the future of CD he said: Performance under the Civil Defence (General Local Authority Functions) Regulations 1983 will be monitored by requiring reports from local authorities.

On finance, while the Government is satisfied with the allocation between local authorities and other civil defence agencies, the former have not so far spent up to planned levels. This is one of the matters we can follow up as a result of our monitoring.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L): If the view of the local authority is that civil defence is actually a false security, why would

BT should buy British

HOUSE OF LORDS

The interests of British manufacturers of telecommunications equipment, which were of paramount importance, were fully covered by the Telecommunications Bill, Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said during discussion in the House of Lords an Opposition amendment which, Lord Bruce of Donington said, sought to provide assurances for manufacturers as well as consumers.

Lord Weinstock (C), said the amendment should be supported. There was nothing specified in the Bill about British firms which manufactured telecommunications equipment. He pointed out that BT in pursuit of its licence for cellular radio, placed the first order for equipment with the Nippon Electric Co and not with any British concern. The Racal company, also placed orders for equipment abroad.

The amendment was withdrawn by Lord Bruce indicated that the Opposition would seek at a later stage to come up with a definition which made clear the commitment to safeguard British manufacturers.

MPs press for explanation of Gummer threat

The Government was again pressed in the Commons to explain what Mr John Selwyn Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Party, meant when he said that "very serious action" would be taken against the BBC following the recent *Panorama* programme alleging links between right-wing extremists and the Conservative Party.

During question time exchanges on the BBC television licence fee, Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said at 12.45, the licence fee properly represented the best value in the country today.

How does he explain the remarks (he asked) of Mr Gummer that "very serious action" will be taken against the BBC because it dared to put on a programme criticizing the Tory Party? Was that whisper snapper speaking for the Government when he used those words?

Mr Douglas Hard, Minister of State, Home Office: As I understand it serious action was made of a particular programme and I understand they are being seriously considered. It has nothing to do with the licence fee.

Earlier, Mr Hamilton had asked about the future rate for the television licence.

Mr Hard told him the present levels of the licence formed the basis of the BBC's income until April 1985. No consideration had been given to an increase.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C) asked Mr Hard to make a statement about unfair anomalies in concessions for old people's homes.

Mr Hard: There certainly are anomalies and we have been looking at them. But if you remove the existing concessions that the remainder would have to pay a very high rate indeed.

'Sea blind' Britain back on course

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain was beginning to recover from "sea blindness" of misguided concern about maritime matters" from which it had been suffering, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, First Sea Lord, said yesterday.

He was speaking at a conference on Soviet maritime power organized in London by the Royal United Services Institute and the Hudson Institute of New York.

Naval forces could advance, withdraw, concentrate or disperse without violating frontiers or abandoning ground. "Maritime power can reach, with matchless, subtle facility, places which other forms of force cannot reach, touching nerves and stimulating responses."

The Russians had sustained a far more logical appreciation of those factors than had the West. The Soviets were striving to build naval power which went beyond their basic defensive requirements.

It was essential to distinguish between the capability and the intentions of a possibly enemy. "Whatever moderate and reasonable intentions we may read into potential enemy, it is essential to look beyond at the capability that can be wielded, for it is this that we must not fail."

Sir John said: "Capabilities bequeath options and for the Soviet Navy the options increasingly are worldwide."

It was important for the West to avoid being too preoccupied, almost to the exclusion of anything else, by the possibility of total war in a direct confrontation between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, which was unlikely to occur.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Debate on EEC budget for 1984.

Tuesday: Proceedings on the Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) Bill.

Wednesday: Debates on Opposition motions on youth unemployment and on the care of the elderly.

Thursday: Proceedings on the Pension Commutation Bill, Merchant Shipping Bill, remaining stages. Shrewsbury and Auctham Borough Council Bill, second reading.

Friday: Debate on private Member's motion on the democratic rights and living standards of Londoners.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Telecommunications Bill, committee, fourth day.

Tuesday: Telecommunications Bill, committee, fifth day.

Wednesday: Debate on industry.

Thursday: Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, committee. Animal Health and Welfare Bill, report.

Friday: Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) (No 2) Bill, committee.

Daily Mail 'distortion' rejected

A report in the *Daily Mail* of an interview with two Russian guests of the Mothers for Peace organization was hostile and unlikely to be welcome to the organization, but was nevertheless substantially accurate, the Press Council said yesterday.

The council rejected a complaint by Mothers for Peace that an article by John Passmore and the headline "Kremlin's peace women" fluff their lines" distorted and misrepresented the interview.

The *Daily Mail* found no reason to correct or apologise for the story.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

The *Daily Mail* report of a group interview with some participants at a Mothers for Peace discussion week was hostile and unlikely to be welcome to the organization. It concentrated on a short passage from a substantial interview. The organizers would no doubt have preferred publicity to have been given to other aspects of the interview, but the report was substantially accurate and is supported by the transcript of a recording of the proceedings. The complaint against the *Daily Mail* is rejected.

Libel award for former MI5 agent

A former senior MI5 agent who played a leading role in uncovering Soviet spy Anthony Blunt and was then linked to spying for the Russians won substantial libel damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

Although not mentioned by name, Mr Arthur Martin could be identified by articles in the *Sunday Telegraph* and *Daily Telegraph*, his counsel, Mr Francis Gillibrand, said.

The first article, in the *Sunday Telegraph* in January last year, was headed "Blunt file reopened to probe role of former agent". It suggested that a former agent involved in the Blunt affair was under suspicion of being a Russian spy.

There was a report in the *Daily Telegraph* the next day and a third article in the *Daily Telegraph* at the end of January, which described the search of Mr Martin's home in Chelsea and the removal of documents.

Mr Gillibrand told Mr Justice Conyn that there was no truth in any of the allegations and the newspapers had agreed to pay undisclosed damages and costs.

Aids case

The thirty-seventh confirmed case in Britain of the disease Aids which destroys the body's immunity to other illnesses, has been diagnosed in a man, aged 32, living in Brighton.

Chichester stars

Sir Alec Guinness, Joan Plowright, Maggie Smith, and Paul Eddington will be appearing at the Chichester Festival Theatre which opens its 1984 season on May 2.

London welcome: The Lord Mayor of London, Dame Mary Donaldson, greeting the Queen at All Hallows-by-the-Tower in London yesterday before the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service of the British Leprosy Relief Association.

PUBLIC SPENDING Defence slowdown • Adult education cuts • More cash for the prisons

White Paper projects public spending to match inflation

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The "broadly stable" projections of spending unveiled yesterday by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Peter Rees, in the first public expenditure White Paper of this Parliament, show a gradual slowdown in the growth of public spending over the next three years - in line with the modest fall in inflation forecast by the Treasury.

The White Paper projects a 5 per cent increase in public spending in 1984-85, to £126,353m, followed by increases of 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 and 3.5 per cent in 1986-87. The Treasury is assuming that prices throughout the economy will rise by 5 per cent during 1984-85, with inflation declining to 4 per cent during the next two years.

This would mean no real increase in public spending, for the first time since Mrs Margaret Thatcher took office. Despite repeated assertions in the past that the Government intended to curb public spending, the figures in this White Paper show that it has risen in real terms every year since 1979.

For 1983-84, the year ending next month, spending was at one stage expected to overshoot the target set only last spring by as much as £2,000m. The White Paper suggests that it will be only £700m above target, partly because the Treasury has not distributed £750m of its contingency reserve (about half the total) to spending departments.

This still implies that public spending will have risen by more than 21 per cent faster than inflation. This latest estimate for 1983-84 is about £8,000m higher than the projection for that year published in the Conservatives' first public spending White Paper in 1980.

However, public spending has accounted for a declining share of gross domestic product since 1982, when the economy began to recover from the depths of the recession. From a peak of 44 per cent it is projected to fall to 42 per cent in 1984-85. Only if the economy continues to grow by 3 per cent a year, however, will its share fall by 1986-87 to below the 40.5 per cent level inherited from Labour in 1979.

Spending in 1983-84: plans and outturn

	March 1980	March 1981	March 1982	Feb 1983	Feb 1984
Planning total for 1983-84 published in:	£112.4 bn	£113.5 bn	£120.7 bn	£119.6 bn	£120.3 bn

Spending in 1983-84: plans and outturn

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84 est	1984-85 plans	1985-86 plans	1986-87 plans
Annual change in planning totals of public expenditure	+17.0	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5
In cash terms	+17.0	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5
In real terms (after inflation) %	+1.7	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5

Rise in public spending

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84 est	1984-85 plans	1985-86 plans	1986-87 plans
Annual change in planning totals of public expenditure	+17.0	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5
In cash terms	+17.0	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5	+10.5
In real terms (after inflation) %	+1.7	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5	+1.5

Planned changes in the main spending programmes

	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Defence	+8.4	+18.7	+18.7
Trade, industry energy and employment	-7.7	-39.8	-39.8
Transport	-4.1	+2.9	+2.9
Housing and other environmental services	-5.8	+0.5	+0.5
Law and order	+4.7	+13.2	+13.2
Education and science	-2.3	+2.9	+2.9
Health and personal social services	+5.0	+16.1	+16.1
Social security	+5.3	+17.9	+17.9

Derived from Cmd 9143

government grants, is assumed to fall by £2,410m over the period, implying that they will have to finance an increasing share of their investment from either improvements in efficiency or higher prices. (As usual, this is one of the most dubious elements in the white paper.) Regional aid and other forms of industrial support are also projected to fall from £1,300m in 1983-84 to £1,000m in 1986-87.

An increase of nearly 18 per cent.

over the period, in social security hence more dependent on supplementary benefits.

A modest real increase in spending on health and personal social services, Education, transport and housing, by contrast, are all to be cut in real terms. The net result of all these changes is that spending on programmes is projected to increase by only 3.1 per cent in 1984-85, 3.8 per cent in 1985-86 and 2.8 per cent in 1986-87. However, the Treasury has built in a huge and increasing contingency reserve, rising from £2,750m in 1984-85 to £4,750m in 1986-87. If this were all to be allocated to programmes, the rate of increase in spending would rise to 5.3 per cent, 4.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent.

But the planning total on which the Government concentrates is reduced by the projections for public sector asset sales, £1,900m in 1984-85 and £2,000m for each of the following years.

This practice (condemned by the Treasury select committee of MPs for understating the true level of spending to be financed) reduces both the overall figures and the increase in spending in 1984-85 - the year for which this White Paper matters most. Figures for later years will be renegotiated in the next public expenditure round.

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Government moving towards defence expenditure 'plateau'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

For the first time since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, the Government is moving towards a period in which there will be a negligible real growth in defence spending.

The Government is committed to achieving a NATO target of three per cent growth annually in real terms until March 1986. On present plans, it will have achieved by then a real growth of 19.3 per cent since 1979, if spending on the Falklands is excluded, or 23 per cent if Falklands spending is included.

In the first year after abandonment of the NATO target - 1986-87 - the Government is aiming for a growth in defence spending, excluding the Falklands, of only 4 per cent in cash terms, bringing the figure for that year to £18,660m.

That is predicted to yield an increase of 1 per cent in real spending power, but that assumes that inflation will be running at only about 3 per cent that year.

It is clear that the defence budget could come under severe pressure if inflation is much above that level two years from now.

However, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that the Ministry of Defence had been basing its long-term planning on the assumption that spending would be on a plateau when the NATO growth commitment expired in 1986. There was no question, he said, of it leading to a big reexamination of defence commitment.

"We believe that on the present levels, notwithstanding

the ending of the 3 per cent growth target, we shall be able to accommodate our basic commitments in central Europe, some measure of out-of-area commitment, and our obligations to all three Services."

The White Paper shows that spending on the Falkland Islands, including the cost of building the new airport and of replacing equipment lost in the conflict of 1982, will be running at £684m in 1984-85, £552m in 1985-86, and £450m in 1986-87.

It confirms the previously announced fact that defence spending in the coming financial year will be running at just over £17,000m, which is about

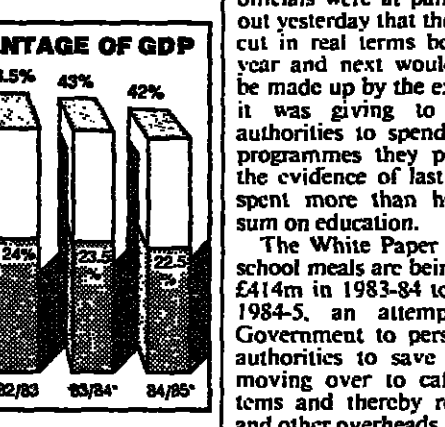
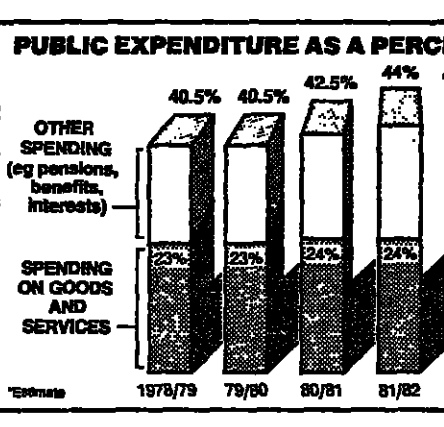
£300 for every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom.

It also shows that reductions in manpower in the Armed Forces of up to 20,000 by 1986, which had been set as a target in June, 1981, will not be achieved. It now looks as though the reduction will be only about half that number, with small increases occurring this year and next.

The Ministry, however, aims to reduce the number of its civilian employees from about 200,000 now to 170,000 by April, 1988. More than half that reduction will be achieved through a change of status for the Royal Ordnance Factories.

Public Sector Capital Spending Em cash

	1978-79 outturn	1979-80 outturn	1980-81 outturn	1981-82 outturn	1982-83 outturn	1983-84 est outturn	1984-85 plans
Central and local government:							
Buildings and services	2,101	2,385	2,302	1,943	2,204	2,212	2,227
Other new construction	2,255	3,181	3,767	3,912	4,340	4,302	4,524
Transport	829	736	577	502	1,058	1,140	1,132
Defence:							
Construction	46	305	283	271	385	456	528
Equipment	1,779	2,211	2,905	3,445	3,800	4,554	5,200
Nationalized industries:							
Construction	4,734	1,831	2,355	2,481	2,887	2,935	2,841
Equipment, plant, machinery		3,564	3,562	4,388	4,240	4,743	4,847
Total goods and services	11,845	14,207	18,450	17,352	18,732	20,342	21,096
Capital grants to priv sec	1,561	1,831	1,948	2,033	2,652	3,012	2,774
Total	13,406	16,038	20,398	19,385	21,384	23,354	23,870
Cost terms (base year 1982-83)	21,767	22,025	21,568	20,672	21,384	22,242	21,564



Huge cut in school meals proposed

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A huge cut in school meals as well as significant reductions in adult education and the youth service are proposed for the financial year beginning in April, 1984, in an education budget which shows less spending in real and cash terms.

However, government officials were at pains to point out yesterday that the 7 per cent cut in real terms between this year and next would probably be made up by the extra £660m it was giving to the local authorities to spend on which programmes they pleased. On the evidence of last year, they spent more than half of this sum on education.

The White Paper shows that school meals are being cut from £414m in 1983-84 to £257m in 1984-5, an attempt by the Government to persuade local authorities to save money by moving over to cafeteria systems and thereby reduce staff and other overheads.

Adult education is being reduced by £18m in the next financial year, but then goes up again in 1985 by £7m to £80, and the youth service is receiving a similar cut, down £15m next year and then up again by £8m to £100m. Both these cuts will hit the Inner London Education Authority unduly because it spends much more than average on these two services.

Altogether spending on education drops by £300m next year, from £13,356m to £13,052m. But after that it is set to rise, reaching £13,750m in 1986-87, Sir Keith Joseph,

Higher pensions drive up payments

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Social security spending, which makes up almost 30 per cent of central government expenditure, is set to rise by £6.3bn to £41.6bn over the next three years, on the figures in yesterday's White Paper.

The driving forces are chiefly a £2.9bn rise to £17.6bn in retirement pensions; a continuing rise in unemployment benefit from £1.52bn to £1.7bn; and an increase in supplementary benefit - the "safety net" - from almost £5.7bn to £6.9bn.

The increases assume that most benefits will rise in line with prices, with inflation assumed to rise by 5.5 per cent this year, and by 4.5 per cent and 4 per cent in the following years.

Unemployment, excluding school leavers is assumed to

£23m more for prison plans

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Capital spending on prisons will rise from £57m this year to about £80m in 1985-6 to pay for expansion plans announced by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The programme, which seeks to end overcrowding by the close of the decade, includes four new prisons now being built and a further six on the drawing board, giving 3,196 extra places by the end of 1986-7.

The pay, overtime and allowances of 4,012 extra prison officers and 429 other staff being recruited are the biggest factor in a rise in current

expenditure from £495m this year to £590m in 1986-7.

A jump in capital spending on the police from £19m this year to £31m next year and £40m in 1985-6 owes much to a change in radio frequencies, entailing a speed-up in telecommunications re-equipment. The change was agreed at an international conference on frequencies in 1979.

Current expenditure on police is due to rise from £44m to £50m by 1986-7. Plans assume that police strength in England and Wales of 121,003 in March 1983 will reach 122,500 by the end of 1986-7.

A rise in spending on magistrates' court services from £29m this year to £40m in 1984-5 includes costs of starting seven buildings in 1984-5 and a projected 12 in 1985-86.

The cost of computerizing magistrates' court processes is also included. Fifty out of 611 petty session divisions were using computerized systems by the end of 1982-3.

A rise in capital expenditure by the Lord Chancellor's Department on court services by £23m this year to £50m in 1985-6 provides for a forecast 67,800 commitments a year for trial to 84,000 in 1986-7.

Planning total Em cash

	1982-83 outturn	1983-84 est	1984-85 plans	1985-86 plans	1986-87 plans
Public expenditure programmes					
1 Central government	81,568	85,812	90,816	95,560	99,540
2 Local authorities	29,101	32,825	31,884	32,850	33,570
3 Central public corporation's capital expenditure	679	406	458	390	340
4 Nationalized industries' ext finance	2,143	2,500	1,881	1,140	90
5 Other public corp's ext finance	374	387	383	390	390
6 Planned expend on programmes	113,865	121,728	125,503	130,330	133,930
7 Special sales of assets (net)	-488	-1,200	-1,900	-2,000	-2,000
8 Reserve	100	2,750	3,750	4,750	4,750
9 Planned expend on programmes: sales of assets and the Reserve	113,377	120,628	126,353	132,080	136,680
11 General allowance for shortfall	-300				
12 Planning total (outturn/est)	113,377	120,328	126,353	132,080	136,680
13 % increase on previous year	8.3	6.1	5.0	4.5	3.5

Memorandum items

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Debt interest-net gross (not included above)	5,946	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,500
Total public expenditure by programme Em cash	14,406	15,716	17,031	18,060	18,660

Defence

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Overseas aid and other overseas services	984	1,063	1,125	1,190	1,200
Overseas aid	580	500	375	350	300
Net payments to EC institutions	600	731	783	810	830
Other overseas services	1,861	2,067	2,048	1,920	1,930
Agric, fish, food and forestry	5,781	6,080	5,609	4,700	3,850
Trade, ind, energy and employment	3,554	3,787	3,451	3,540	3,600
Arts and sciences	4,305	4,550	4,372	4,680	4,690
Transport	2,840	2,760	2,495	2,810	2,880
Housing	1,554	1,787	1,851	1,980	2,000
Other environment servs	4,174	4,881	4,901	5,130	5,300
Law order and protective servs	12,882	13,355	13,052	13,450	13,750
Education and science	15,817	14,558	15,421	16,250	17,050
Health and personal soc servs	35,445	38,324	37,507	39,520	41,630
Social security	1,631	1,656	1,788	1,870	1,900
Common services	1,580	950	1,105	1,180	1,280
Scotland	2,242	6,747	6,869	6,980	7,160
Wales	2,386	2,587	2,585	2,580	2,780
Northern Ireland	3,500	3,799	4,032	4,220	4,380
Local authority current expend not subject to prgs (England)		860	400		200
Adjustments					
Special sales of assets	-488	-1,200	-1,900	-2,000	-2,000
Reserve	100	2,750	3,750	4,750	4,750
General allowance for shortfall	-300				
Planning total	113,377	120,328	126,353	132,080	136,680

Coal continues to drain state funds

By David Young

The continuing drain on government funds by the National Coal Board and the increasing contributions by the electricity and gas industries are highlighted in the White Paper.

It shows that the coal industry's external finance limit (EFL) - which includes redundancy payment provisions as well as support for the controversial coal scheme for miners - in 1984-85 is £1,103m.

Figures published yesterday show that provision by the Government for the redundancy scheme and concessionary coal scheme, other than the contribution paid by the EEC, is expected to rise from the £243m included in the 1984-85 EFL, to £270m in 1985-86 and £290m in 1986-87.

The extent of the contributions expected from the gas and electricity industries is shown by the projected total EFLs of the nationalized industries within the Department of Energy. Present government support of £259m in 1985 will change to a contribution of £660m in 1985-86 and to £1,420m in 1986-87.

Cuts in farming services

By Hugh Clayton

The Government wants to cut spending on farming, forestry and a wide range of environmental services which range from care of historic monuments to inland waterways. The figures for agriculture are complicated by the fact that some money is eventually repaid from EEC funds.

Spending on farming, fisheries, the grocery industry and forestry is planned to drop from £2,09bn in the present financial year to £1,930bn in 1986-7.

Although manpower is to increase in some Government agencies, there will also be widespread cuts.

The most the Treasury has raised in a single year before from asset sales is the £1,200m it expects to obtain in the present financial year. The bulk of that money - about £1,100 - has come from the sale of shares in three companies, BP, Britoil and Cable & Wireless.

The higher figures for future years reflect the fact that the Government is now stepping up

Cash limits reflect differing fortunes

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's two main nationalized manufacturing industries, steel and shipbuilding, are given forecast external financing limits (EFLs) for 1984-85 totalling £450m, with the public spending plans highlighting the differing fortunes of the two corporations.

British Shipbuilders is continuing to be hit by the badly depressed state of world demand for new ships and shows little chance of being able to support itself in the near future. British Steel, however, is slowly emerging from its past problems and a trading profit within the next two years looks likely.

British Shipbuilders, at the centre of the present row over the disposal of the Scott Lithgow yard, is expected to overshoot significantly its £180 EFL for 1983-84.

The British Steel Corporation envisages a loss in the present year of £181m and its present corporate plan forecasts a profit after interest in the coming year.

Then in October the Government is due to offer shares in British Telecom in what will be the biggest flotation of its kind ever undertaken. The Government plans to sell half the corporation to the public, which most experts believe should raise about £4,000m.

The White Paper confirms that the Government is hoping to complete three substantial stock market flotations in the next 12 to 18 months.

The first of these is likely to be

Real spending to rise 10%

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Spending on the National Health Service will rise by about £2.4bn over the next three years to more than £17bn.

That provides for real increases of about 1 per cent on hospital and community services, roughly double the long term growth assumption of 0.5 per cent announced last year.

The White Paper, however, appears to foreshadow government attempts to control demand-led family practitioner services, which are not cash limited, and which will exceed their Budget by about £100m this year.

The Department of Health is studying a report by the management consultants Binder Hamlyn on controlling family doctors' spending.

Cash limits have been ruled out as impractical, but the department is considering moves to cut medical students numbers, encourage GPs to retire at 65, and control more strictly the numbers of overseas doctors in an attempt to limit the increase in family doctors.

Capital spending will rise by about £50m next year, but by £110m over the three years to

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Angola and South Africa set up commission to monitor border ceasefire

From Michael Hornsby, Lusaka

Angola and South Africa announced joint steps here yesterday to establish an effective ceasefire in the border war and to open the way for a wider peace settlement in the region and independence for Namibia.

The announcement was made after a historic trilateral conference between the two ideologically hostile southern African states and the United States, which acted as mediator. The high powered South African and Angolan negotiating teams were led respectively by Mr. P. W. Botha, the South African foreign Minister, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues, the Angolan interior Minister.

Dr. Chester Crocker, the assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, headed the American delegation.

A communiqué described the meeting as "an important and constructive step towards peaceful resolution of the problems of the region, including the question of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435".

Resolution 435 is the internationally-accepted basis for the granting of independence to Namibia, a pre-First World War German colony which South Africa has occupied for 67 years. Since 1966 South Africa's has been regarded as illegal by the UN.

President Kaunda of Zambia opened the meeting, saying that "a historic opportunity now exists to make progress". He also hosted a banquet for the participants on Wednesday night.

The main achievement of the conference is the setting up of a joint Angolan-South African commission "to monitor the disengagement progress in southern Angola and to detect, investigate and report any alleged violations of the commitments of the parties".

The first meeting of the joint commission took place yesterday, and further meetings are to be held "in other mutually agreed locations at the convenience of the parties".

The communiqué said that "a small number of American representatives could participate in the activities of the joint commission at the request of the parties". A diplomatic source told *The Times* that the US involvement would be only symbolic.

The creation of the commission follows on the announcement on January 31 by Mr. P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, that South African troops had begun disengaging from southern Angola as the first step towards a hoped-for permanent ceasefire in the region.

This, he said, was being done on the understanding, conveyed

via the Americans, that neither Angola nor Swaziland (South-West Africa People's Organization) guerrillas would take military advantage of the situation.

Swaziland has been fighting for the last 17 years for the independence of Namibia, and has operated from bases in southern Angola since the mid-1970s, when Portuguese colonial rule in Angola ended. In the past few years fighting across the Namibian-Angolan border has steadily intensified.

The Lusaka communiqué said that the three parties to the conference saw the task of the commission in the weeks ahead as being "to facilitate the successful completion of the disengagement process and to establish an effective cessation of hostilities".

Swaziland itself was not represented at the meeting, but it is presumed that Angola was speaking for the organization, which has so far observed the terms of the South African disengagement.

● LONDON: Mr. Sam Nujoma, leader of Swaziland, held talks at the Foreign Office with Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State, on Namibian independence issues yesterday (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Sources emphasized that the visit by Mr. Nujoma had long been planned as part of a European tour.

Iranians launch massive assault

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iran and Iraq were locked in heavy ground fighting yesterday after Iranian forces launched an offensive in the central sector of the Gulf war front, prompting Iraq to step up attacks on shipping in the Gulf.

Shortly after Tehran announced the start of the offensive, about 110 miles east of Baghdad, Iraq said it had destroyed seven "enemy naval targets" in a convoy at the head of the Gulf.

The two actions, which follow air and shelling bombardments of towns on both sides and renewed Iranian threats to blockade the Gulf, brought the 40-month-old conflict between the two Muslim neighbours to a new and dangerous phase.

Tehran radio, monitored by the BBC, said Iranian troops launched a big offensive last night and within 11 hours had broken through Iraq's front line. It said 1,200 Iraqis had been killed or wounded.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi forces had contained the attack and destroyed part of the attacking Iranian force in a counter-offensive.

Tehran radio said the offensive centred south of the Iranian border town of Mehran and north-east of the Iraqi city of Kut.

The national news agency Irna said Iranian troops had captured an Iraqi supply route and several strategic heights. A military communiqué quoted by Tehran radio said the Fourth Iraqi Border Guard Brigade was destroyed. Iraq's 47th Infantry Battalion headquarters had also been destroyed, it said.

Iran gave no indication of the number of troops involved in the fighting or what it called the "pre-determined objectives".

But diplomats in Baghdad recently said reports from Iranian troops had been sent to the war fronts in preparation for an offensive. After several months of stagnation in the ground fighting.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said five enemy naval targets had been destroyed in naval air attacks in the Khor Musa area at the head of the Gulf. Two other targets in the same convoy trying to enter the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini had been destroyed by Iraqi land mines. He did not identify the ships, but said all Iraqi gunboats and aircraft returned safely to base.

Bandar Khomeini is the site of a joint Japanese-Iranian petrochemical project. Work on the 80 per cent complete complex was halted in 1981 after a series of Iraqi bomb attacks.

In Tokyo, the Japanese partner said it had cancelled the departure from Japan of a second batch of workers following another Iraqi raid on the site last Sunday.

Mr. Hunt aged 57, a former US diplomat, was being driven home in a bullet-proof car.

A statement from the American Embassy here pointed out that, through a tragic irony, the attack struck at an organization which had succeeded in almost two years of existence in ensuring peace in a large part of the Middle East.



Triple assault: Druze gunmen burst into a Phalangist stronghold in Damour in the attack which wrested two towns from Lebanese government forces.

Reagan supports UN force for Beirut

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

With American policy in Lebanon in collapse, the Reagan Administration is throwing strong support behind the creation of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the Beirut area, while trying to reassure its Middle East allies that it is still able to influence events in the region.

President Reagan has given congress formal notice that most of the American Marine contingent in Beirut will be removed to ships offshore "within 30 days" an eight-page report to congress prepared by the Pentagon and State Department asserted that the Marines had "become a target in an area that is no longer under Government control".

The report added that an unspecified number of Marines would "remain on the ground for the protection of our remaining personnel". The role of the UN is central to the immediate plans of the Reagan Administration. The mood is grim. "If a moderate government were overthrown because it had the courage to turn in the direction peace, imagine the consequences for the future," President Reagan said.

Administration officials insist that there is no question of the US withdrawing support for President Amin Gemayel if - against American advice - he abrogates the Lebanese - Israeli troop withdrawal accord of May 17 last year, as demanded by the Syrians.

That was emphasized by Mr. Reagan on Wednesday night. Asked whether the US would alter its backing for President Gemayel if the accord has broken, he replied: "No. It would not change our position that as long as there is a chance for peace there we are going to keep striving".

The assertion of Mr. George Shultz, the Secretary of State, that "those who would dispense with this agreement must bear the responsibility to find alternative formulas for Israeli withdrawal" was a statement of both Government and personal commitment to the accord - he helped mediate.

Administration officials said President Gemayel had accepted an eight-point Saudi Arabian proposal for achieving a settlement in Lebanon that would include scrapping the Israeli-Lebanese accord on troop withdrawals. It was described as "a statement of principles rather than a plan of action".

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15,000 flee across the Awali to safety

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

A flight of panic-stricken Lebanese to the Israeli-occupied sector of their embattled country continued yesterday for the third day. Reports from Sidon said the fugitives began coming late on Tuesday afternoon after Druze forces had reached the Damour area south of Beirut.

By midday yesterday they numbered 15,000. They included about 500 soldiers in the camouflaged uniforms of the Fourth Brigade of the regular Lebanese Army.

The Israelis kept the checkpoint at the Awali river open around the clock to receive the refugees.

Civilian families arriving in hundreds of cars but with practically no luggage were permitted to drive through freely. The soldiers, unshaven and hungry, were disgraced at the approach by Phalangist militiamen and later searched by Israeli soldiers. They arrived on foot, hitchhiked or drove in stolen cars.

Reporters in Sidon said the soldiers appeared deeply ashamed and for the most part refused to talk of their experiences, but it seemed there had been no battle to speak of. Some attributed their debacle to a breakdown in communications with higher echelons.

The civilians, mostly Christians, were taken in by relatives and the Israelis arranged accommodation for the others in schools and public buildings. Warm food and blankets were provided.

Meanwhile, the Army command here confirmed yesterday that Israeli forces were keeping up their patrols north of the Awali river line to make sure Palestinian guerrillas do not return to areas purged in the 1982 invasion and evacuated by the Israelis last year.

A patrol yesterday reached Ras el Saadit, close to the Damour river bridge about eight miles north of the Israeli line. This followed reports that Palestinian guerrillas has been among the Shia and Druze forces operating in the area.

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Canberra defends kangaroo killing

Melbourne - Mr. Barry Cohen, Australia's Minister for the Environment, has attacked Britain and the US for opposing Australia's culling of kangaroos (Tony Dubouin writes). Their stand was hypocritical and ill-informed, he said.

The number of kangaroos which can be killed this year has been reduced by one million because of the effects of last year's drought, Mr. Cohen said.

Attacking some conservation groups, particularly in Britain and the US, Mr. Cohen said they gave the impression "that we are a bunch of bloodthirsty animals going around biting the heads off kangaroos". He accused them of being "dishonest, deceitful and in some cases positively evil".

Vicar to die for wife's murder

Colombo - The Rev. Matthew Peiris, aged 65, Vicar of the fashionable Anglican Church of St. Paul's in Colombo, and a former secretary, 37-year-old Mrs. Dalrene Ingram, have been sentenced to death for the murder of their married partner.

Mr. Peiris, who began his career as a priest in St. Francis of Assisi in Welwyn Garden City, made the sign of the cross and said: "I am innocent. I place my case in the hands of God." Mrs. Ingram also said she was innocent.

The couple were charged with the murder of their 37-year-old wife, Mrs. Dalrene Ingram, who was found dead in her home in Welwyn Garden City, England, on January 17 last year.

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Drug abuse soars France bans sale of solvent

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France has decided to ban the sale of trichloroethylene solvent to people under 18 as part of its campaign to tackle the ever-rising tide of drug abuse and addiction. About 20 young people are known to have died last year as a direct result of "sniffing" solvents and glue.

M. Joseph Franceschi, Minister for Public Security, told Wednesday's cabinet meeting that a record 190 people died in France last year officially due to drug abuse, 16 per cent more than in the previous year, and nearly double the number five years earlier. But the real figure was probably three or four times higher, he added.

The quantity of drugs seized by police and customs last year broke all records: 168 kilos of heroin were seized, up to 70 per cent on the previous year, and 222 kilos of cocaine, nearly three times as much as in 1982, and a hundred times more than in 1976.

The retail value of the total drugs haul including 28 tons of cannabis, had been estimated at 7 billion francs (£580m), but some put the value ten times higher, M. Franceschi said.

More than 26,000 people were arrested last year for drug offences, 20 per cent more than in 1982. They included 2,735 traffickers, three times the number in the previous year. Eight out of every 10 traffickers are foreigners, mostly Chinese and North African Arabs; eight out of 10 users are French.

The report mentions Belleville, Montmartre, the Gare de Lyons, and the Porte de Vanves as the best-known drug-trafficking areas. As for the so-called "Parisian crown", the poor council house-dominated suburbs that surround the city, "it is just like the pavements in Manila: children prostitute themselves to pay for their drugs", the report says.

The police estimate that 50 per cent of petty crime is carried out by drug addicts needing money to pay for their fixes.

Inquiry into mind control demanded

From John Best, Ottawa

Evidence that the Canadian Government was involved in mind-control experiments in the 1950s and 1960s has produced demands for a full public inquiry.

Nine Canadians who were unsuspecting guinea pigs in the experiments are already suing the US Government for \$1m (£650,000) each because of the CIA's involvement. The Canadian Government is supporting those actions.

Recently, however, newspaper *Vancouver Province* reported that it had obtained documents showing that the Canadian Government had poured \$500,000 between 1950 and 1964 into the Montreal Psychiatric Institute, where the experiments were conducted.

The CIA gave \$64,000 to the institute between 1957 and 1961. The newspaper said that the documents, obtained under Canada's Freedom-of-Information Law, show that the Government knew that patients were sometimes put to sleep for several weeks, and were given electric shocks to the brain to study the effects of memory loss.

In other tests, taped messages were played to patients for up to 16 hours a day, in some instances for 10 consecutive days. Some patients faced the tapes for 34 months.

Patients whose brains resisted such treatment were forced into artificial comas with drugs, or their resistance was lowered by sensory deprivation.

The Church of Scientology in Toronto has now called on the Federal Government to launch a parliamentary inquiry into "the extent to which 'mind control' and similar-type experiments have gone on across Canada".

The church made public documents which showed that the experiments came under headings such as "Research into the psychological factors causing the human mind to accept certain political beliefs".

Tutu defies Botha on church role

Johannesburg (AFP) - The head of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, has defied allegations by a government commission that the council is influenced by foreign doctrines.

The commission, led by Justice D. F. Eloff, told Parliament yesterday that the council had increasingly identified itself with the "black liberation struggle" and had opted for a "revolutionary, rather than an evolutionary, process of change in South Africa".

Appointed in 1981 by Mr. P. W. Botha the Prime Minister, the commission recommended that the council subjected to the 1978 Fund-Raising Act, a move that would bring its finances and activities under close government scrutiny.

At a press conference Bishop Tutu said: "No secular authority, not even the government of the land, had any authority to sit in judgment on the churches about how to fulfil its God-given mandate to work for the extension of God's kingdom of justice, peace, reconciliation and compassion."

The bishop challenged the Government to charge the council in court if it had broken any laws by aiding political prisoners and their families.

Church moves Solidarity priest out of Warsaw

From Our Correspondent, Warsaw

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland, confirmed that he had ordered the transfer to a remote rural parish of Father Mieczyslaw Nowak, an outspoken pro-Solidarity priest.

Before leaving on a visit to Brazil and Argentina Cardinal Glemp called the transfer an "internal church matter" adding that he had also spoken to another militant priest, Father Jerzy Popieuszko.

Father Nowak has been transferred on short notice from St. Joseph's church in the Warsaw working class suburb of Ursus, the site of a tractor factory that has been a big Solidarity stronghold, to become the senior priest at Lekki Koscielne, a village about 65 miles west of Warsaw.

According to church sources, the primate ordered the transfer to protect the priest from further questioning by the authorities about his links with the banned Solidarity trade union.

On Wednesday Father Nowak was questioned for nearly four hours at Warsaw police headquarters, where he was presented with transcripts of his sermons from monthly pro-Solidarity "masses for the fatherland" at the Ursus church which have regularly drawn thousands of worshippers. Both Father Nowak and Father Popieuszko are among a group of priests who are being investigated on charges of abusing religious freedom in sermons attacking the Communist regime.

● Hunger strike: Thirteen jailed Solidarity activists have gone on hunger strike, the fourth such protest now going on in Poland (Reuters reports).

sound, the conversation was deciphered by lip-reading experts from Rome's school for deaf and dumb, *Hurriyet* said. However, a crucial two-minute sequence had been clipped from the film recording Mr. Agca's answer to the Pope's question "who was the one that wanted me destroyed? Who sent you to St. Peter's Square?"

In an earlier sequence, the Pope remarked "I believe what you have told me so far, but how did you do it? I want to know for myself." Agca's answer was lost because his lips were behind the Pope's ear during the whispered conversation.



Airport welcome: Dr. Castro is greeted by Señor Felipe González at Madrid. Later, he and Señor Daniel Ortega, the Nicaraguan leader, had lunch with the Prime Minister.

Agca 'told Pope of plot'

From Esat Gurdilek, Ankara

The Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca, serving a life sentence in Rome for attempting to kill the pope in May, 1981, gave the Pope full details of the plot when the two met in Agca's cell on December 27 last year, the Turkish Daily *Hurriyet* claimed yesterday.

Publishing a transcript of the filmed conversation, the paper said it got hold of the film, of which the only two copies were kept in the state archives of Italy and the Vatican, through a mysterious Italian who contacted its Rome correspondent a month after the meeting.

As the film was without

Butterships in the dock

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

"Butterships" the floating duty-free shops off the German coast where Germans in their thousands stock up with cheap drink, cigarettes, perfume and of course butter, will soon have to dock. The European Court in Luxembourg has ruled that they are illegal and contrary to the rules of the European Community.

The court said that the ships do not actually go anywhere. They simply cruise up and down the North Sea and Baltic coasts while the passengers fill their shopping bags. They therefore were only symbolically going outside the tariff zone.

Germany's butterfleet is considerable, and some 15,000 people are said to be employed by the business, bringing great profits to Schleswig-Holstein. But even Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, former Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein and now Minister of Finance, cannot see any further loophole.

Gromyko lines up against Ustinov in the Soviet leadership race

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There were reports yesterday in Moscow that Mr Andrei Gromyko or Marshal Dmitry Ustinov might become Soviet President instead of Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr Chernenko, aged 72, was elected party leader by the Central Committee on Monday, but the post of President remains vacant. Like Mr Brezhnev before him, Mr Chernenko's chances of becoming head of state as well as party leader would depend on his political effectiveness over the next few weeks.

The head of state is formally elected by the Supreme Soviet, and is chairman of its presidium. Elections to a new Supreme Soviet will convene later in March, possibly preceded by a Central Committee Plenum.

Mr Andropov became Soviet President last June, after eight months in power, but it took Mr Brezhnev 13 years to combine the two posts. Mr Brezhnev initially ruled as part of a collective leadership, and there was speculation this week that Mr Chernenko might revert to the same pattern.

Mr Chernenko is the oldest man to become party leader, and although he received foreign leaders as the Kremlin's top man this week there are doubts about both his health and his political strength. His rise was resisted in the Politburo by younger leaders such as Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, aged 52, and Mr Grigory Romanov, aged 61. Both were shown by Soviet television in prominent positions next to Mr Chernenko during the lying in state and funeral ceremonies for Mr Andropov on Tuesday, suggesting that Mr Gorbachov is the heir apparent.

It was said yesterday that as an apparent sign of his informal status as number two, Mr Gorbachov had made a speech at Monday's Central Committee meeting which elected Mr Chernenko, although the text of Mr Gorbachov's remarks has not yet been released.

It was being said that since the younger generation was still biding its time, the presidency might go to Marshal Ustinov, the 75-year-old Defence Minister, or the Foreign Minister, 74-year-old Mr Gromyko, Marshal Ustinov would be replaced as Defence Minister by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the chief of staff, who came to public prominence last autumn after the Korean airliner disaster.

Mr Gromyko, Foreign Minister since 1957, could relinquish the post to his deputy, Mr Georgy Kornienko.

Mr Vasily Kuznetsov, the

Moscow hints at revival of détente

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

As the last trickle of world leaders left Moscow yesterday, diplomats' summed up Mr Chernenko's meetings this week by saying he had signalled a return to détente with the West while leaving China out in the cold and showing no interest in an initiative on Afghanistan.

Mr Chernenko saw Vice-President Bush, Mrs Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany and M Pierre Muroy, the Prime Minister of France as well as Mr Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

He struck them all as a direct and practical man who avoided reference to past recriminations. Mr Trudeau said before leaving Moscow that the "megaphones had been lowered". Mr Chernenko had made only two conditions for resumption of East-West talks: they should be "as between equals", and they must not amount to "dialogue for the sake of dialogue".

Mr Chernenko made no overtures to China however, in contrast to Mr Andropov, who at Brezhnev's funeral in 1982 made a point of giving a warm welcome to Mr Huang Hua, the then Chinese Foreign Minister. Mr Chernenko did not receive Mr Wan Li, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, who was the most senior Chinese official to Moscow since the early 1960s.

Mr Wan saw Mr Gaidar Aliyev, who is a Politburo member and Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Wan deliberately referred to Mr Andropov's known desire for an improvement in Sino-Soviet relations, but Mr Aliyev merely observed that Moscow was "invariably" in favour of improvement. Mr Wan said he hoped the obstacles between Moscow and Peking, the large Soviet armed presence on China's border, Kremlin backing for Vietnamese control of Kampuchea, and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan - could be overcome in consultations. The next round is due in Moscow next month, but Russia is suspicious of Peking's recent amity with the United States.

Mr Chernenko ignored the opportunity for progress towards a political settlement in Afghanistan and turned down a request by President Zia of Pakistan for a private meeting. In 1982 Mr Andropov warmly greeted President Zia and spurned President Babrak Karmal, the Soviet-installed Afghan leader.

Mr Chernenko by contrast did not even respond to President Zia's approach while holding a long talk with Mr Karmal.

Warm greetings from Ceausescu

● BUCHAREST: In an unusually effusive message, President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania cabled cordial congratulations and "warmest wishes of success" to Mr Chernenko (AP reports).

"I wish you, dear Comrade Chernenko, much health and happiness... and success in carrying out your mission of high responsibility", the telegram said. It also expressed the conviction that bilateral friendship would develop in future.

Romanian sources disclosed that Mr Chernenko, who from 1948 to 1956 headed the Communist Party's propaganda section in Soviet Moldavia, bordering north-eastern Romania, had been Bucharest's favourite to succeed Mr Brezhnev in 1982.

Under the leadership of Mr Andropov relations between the two Warsaw Pact allies had cooled. Western diplomats said, Romanian television was the only Soviet block service not to provide live coverage of Mr Andropov's funeral.

Soviet Moldavia, formerly Bessarabia, belonged to Romania until 1940, when it was annexed by Moscow. The province has been a bone of contention between the two countries for the past 200 years.

US hopes for useful dialogue

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan believes that the new Soviet leadership is making an effort to play down rhetoric and to explore ways to promote a more useful dialogue.

In his first public appearance on Wednesday since the death of Mr Andropov, the president said that the atmosphere was positive during Tuesday's meeting between Vice-President George Bush and Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the new Soviet leader, at Mr Andropov's funeral in Moscow.

"Although Secretary Chernenko did not depart from standard Soviet positions, he did appear ready to put our relationship on a more constructive basis," President Reagan said in remarks prepared for a fund-raising event for women political candidates of his Republican Party.

"If the new leadership decides to join us in a good faith effort we can accomplish much together," Mr Reagan said. There was no better time to start than right now. If the Soviet Government wanted peace, then there would be peace.

A month ago, the President called for a constructive working relationship between the two superpowers and on the Soviet Union to return to the Geneva arms control negotiations.

On Wednesday he said again, that the US had always been willing to meet the Soviet Union halfway to find solutions to the many problems that divide them and to reach fair arms-reduction agreements.

He said that Mr Bush had emphasized to Mr Chernenko America's desire for greater mutual understanding, and genuine cooperation. Mr Bush had also made clear Washington's concern about issues such as human rights, and regional conflicts.

The President has rejected the idea of an early "get-acquainted" summit with Mr Chernenko, but he re-emphasized on Tuesday that he would be interested in a "substantive" summit.

● TOKYO: Japan and the Soviet Union are to meet here on March 12 and 13 (AP reports).

Lawyer's plea for Orlov

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr John Macdonald, QC, the British lawyer who has taken up the case of Dr Yuri Orlov, appealed to the new leadership in Moscow yesterday to release the Soviet physicist.

Dr Orlov, a former leader of the Moscow group monitoring Soviet observance of the Helsinki Accords, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment and five years internal exile for anti-state activities in 1978. Mr Macdonald said that he had now been released from prison, but had been sent immediately into internal exile in the Yakutsk region - one of the harshest in Siberia.

"I know that the decision was taken on February 6 before Mr Andropov died, I ask the new general secretary (Mr Chernenko) to make a gesture to wards the scientific community."

"I invite Professor Orlov and his wife Irina to stay with me in London."

Neutral Austria: Part 2, the military

Air defences limited by lack of funds

Austria's reestablishment as an independent republic in 1955 also saw its "permanent neutrality" defined by military restrictions. Dr Bruno Kreisky, the former Chancellor, saw neutrality as a means of ensuring international organizations in Vienna. His successors, the Socialist-Liberal Coalition, are looking at more conventional safeguards. In the final article on Austrian neutrality, Richard Bassett, Vienna Correspondent, examines its effect on Austria's defence.

According to the Federal Constitutional Law of 1955, Austria cannot join any military alliance, nor permit the establishment of foreign bases on its territory. By article 5 of The Hague Convention, Austria is obliged, furthermore, to prevent its territory or air space from being used by any belligerent nation and for this reason alone has to maintain "adequate military forces".

"Defence strength is an important factor in assuring respect for neutrality and deterring potential aggressors", says Dr Friedrich Frischenschlager, a Liberal who, since the formation last May of a Socialist-Liberal coalition Government, has been Austria's Minister for Defence. In an emergency, Dr Frischenschlager is confident that 300,000 men could be mobilized to defend Austria's 1,864-mile frontier.

In theory, Austria's comprehensive national defence plan looks quite impressive for a country with only 7.5 million inhabitants. Organized on a conscript militia basis, Austrian forces familiar with the local terrain would wage relentless guerrilla warfare on any aggressor.

But, while parts of Austria could prove as defensible as the hills of Afghanistan, its eastern frontier, as the Turks well know 300 years ago, offers the invader every strategic advantage.

In addition, despite all the area defence plans produced by the country's enormous corps of colonels, the Austrian attitude to defence is rather Ruritanian. Last October its expensive early warning system in the Carinthian Alps broke down. It was reported to have remained inactive for 48 hours because, it was a weekend, no one who could authorize repairs among the General Staff was able to be alerted.

Manoeuvres held two winters ago in Western Tyrol were considered equally uninspiring. Although for the sake of Austria's neutrality the attacking army was not named, the aggressors' thrust was clearly coming from a Nato country. Perhaps for this reason, the

defending army took a rather relaxed view of their enemy and the complete air superiority "written into" their forces.

For, to the amazement of several Western defence attaches inspecting the defenders' positions, tanks and even a brigade headquarters were left exposed for hours in the middle of open fields or some comfortable garthouses.

"We can only hope", said one Western observer, "that if the Austrians face a real attack from the east, they'd get their act a little more together".

Warsaw Pact manoeuvres in Czechoslovakia last week showed that the Austrian High Command has no grounds for complacency. But, for many of the Austrian General Staff, some of whom saw action with the German Wehrmacht on the Russian front, the entire plausibility of Austria's defence is considerably dented by the absence of suitable interceptors to patrol the air-space.

At the moment, Austria relies on 32 Saab 105 jets, which were considered obsolete in most European air forces by 1960. It has no ground to air missiles as these are expressly forbidden in the 1955 State Treaty. The same clause prohibiting the use of "self-propelled or guided missiles... or apparatus connected with their discharge or control" would also seem to rule out air to air missiles, although Dr Frischenschlager and his party chief, Herr Norbert Steger, both insist this is merely a question of interpretation.

By the end of the year, the Defence Minister insists, Austria will have its new interceptors. These may be British Jaguars or American aircraft but cost and Austria's wish not

to be seen favouring either military block are likely to result in the purchase of Saab interceptors from neutral Sweden.

Eventually, it may even be possible for the Austrian arms industry, which has already produced impressive rifles and tanks, to develop its own interceptors.

But for all Dr Frischenschlager's optimism, the conservative People's Party Opposition, as well as several military experts are sceptical that the Government will find sufficient funds to buy the interceptors this year.

Years of Socialist Government with little time for defence budgets, have whittled away expenditure to a mere 3.46 per cent of the state budget. With Dr Kreisky's resignation last April and the Liberals' entry to the Government hopes were raised that the old Socialist philosophy of protecting Austria's neutrality by setting up international headquarters in Vienna would be revised. But Dr Frischenschlager so far has not asked for more funds.

Moreover, within months of taking office, the Defence Minister astonished his staff, and many of his party, by allowing the Army to have a day off to attend peace demonstrations in Vienna.

Dr Frischenschlager is quick to defend his decision, pointing out that one of the most useful achievements of post-war Austrian history has been the successful integration of the Army into the population. The absence of this 50 years ago this week resulted in near civil war, as the Army bombarded Austrian workers in the Socialist housing estates of Vienna.

Concluded



Full circle: Brooke Knapp waving to fans in Washington yesterday after breaking the record for circling the world in a business-class jet. Her flight of 44 hours, 32 minutes and 53 seconds was to raise money for children.

Britain wants extra session on rebate

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

In a bid to free its £457m EEC budget rebate from the clutches of the European Parliament, Britain is poised to force reluctant MEPs to hold special session at the beginning of next month.

Officials believe, there will simply not be enough time to complete all the necessary and negotiations formalities to release the money before the deadline of March 31 set by Mrs Thatcher is more than likely to carry out her threat and withhold payment of some of Britain's contributions.

Britain's net payment is around £100m a month. The EEC is now so desperately short of money that any block would speed up dramatically its slide into bankruptcy.

Under such a threat EEC leaders are unlikely to be in a mood to negotiate the long term Brussels summit on March 19. Failure there will mean the Community will run out of money by late summer. The Commission estimates that at present spending levels the EEC will need up to £1,000m more this year than is actually available.

The Commission axe is most likely to fall on regional and social fund spending. Even if good progress is made at the March summit there is no way in which resources can be increased until 1986 by then all Community policies, including agriculture, will be feeling a very sharp pinch.

Foreign ministers from the member states meet informally at St Cloud outside Paris this

Army seeks truce with Bonn over Kiessling

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The Kiessling affair appears to be virtually over. After Herr Manfred Wörner, the West German Defence Minister, admitted on Tuesday to a gathering of senior Army officers in Travemünde that he had made a mistake in dismissing the four-star general, the mood on the Bundeswehr is that it is time for reconciliation, and that both Army and minister must look forward.

Nevertheless, there was some sharp criticism of Herr Wörner at the meeting, and commentators suggest that it has lost political authority and officers' confidence has been irreparably damaged.

The steam seems also to have gone out of the parliamentary inquiry, which has been hearing evidence from those involved. There is no wish to go over the allegations of homosexuality against General Kiessling, and no witnesses are being called from the homosexual scene. Government, politicians and the public are content to leave these awkward questions unanswered.

Instead, the inquiry in concentrating on the failure of the Military Intelligence Service to establish firm grounds for its advice to Herr Wörner, General Helmut Behrendt, the head of the Military Intelligence Service, admitted during testimony on Tuesday that he had made mistakes and said the supposed security risk offered by General Kiessling had disappeared after the general had agreed with Herr Wörner last September to accept early retirement.

General Behrendt, however, sharply criticized the politicians in the Defence Ministry, saying Herr Joachim Hiehl, the State Secretary responsible for the Military Intelligence Service had insisted on continuing the investigations to clear up the gossip and rumours.

General Behrendt said this stance was "neither sensible nor justified." He had given repeated warnings that such inquiries could lead only to a public scandal in view of General Kiessling's senior position.

General Behrendt admitted however that he had made an error in contacting the Cologne police in making inquiries in the bars the general was supposed to have visited.

Jesse Jackson's campaign Third World stance embarrasses rivals

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reverend Jesse Jackson likes to portray himself as the champion of the oppressed, both in the United States and around the world.

The domestic policies which he advocates as he stumps around the country trying to put together a "rainbow coalition" to support his presidential challenge are aimed very much at blacks, Hispanics and other minorities who have yet to acquire their share of the American dream. His foreign policies are unashamedly directed at the Third World.

"I grew up in an occupied zone," he told an audience in Boston the other day, referring to his birthplace in Greenville, South Carolina. "I had to negotiate with the colonial power for the right to vote, for open housing, for equal pay. We had to negotiate the end of apartheid here in this country."

This portrayal of American blacks struggling for their rights against white oppressors just as blacks in Africa fought for their independence from European colonialists goes down well with the predominantly black crowds which turn out to hear him. In Boston, as during other speeches he makes along the campaign trail, they frequently interrupted with applause and shouts of "yeah" and "right".

Whether his articulate and emotional advocacy of minority rights will win him many votes outside the black and Hispanic communities remains to be seen. But his insistence on emphasizing the "Third World" aspect of foreign policy has introduced a novel - and at times divisive - element into the Democratic Party's approach to international affairs, particularly on the Middle East.

The Democrats, more than the Republicans, have long been known for their support of Israel. As a result a majority of the nation's six million Jews has traditionally supported the Democratic Party and lavishly supplied it with campaign funds.

Yet in Mr Jackson the party now has a presidential candidate who not only publicly embraced Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine



Jesse Jackson: Outspoken views

Liberation Organisation, five years ago but who calls for the creation of a Palestinian homeland in the Middle East. All the other key candidates are strongly pro-Israel.

Many Jewish Democrats have been offended by what they perceive to be Mr Jackson's pro-Arab stance, particularly since he successfully negotiated the release of Lieutenant Robert Goodman, a US flier, from Syria last month.

They have fought to discredit Mr Jackson for allowing Operation Push, a Chicago-based civil rights organization of which he is president, to accept \$200,000 from the Arab League. Mr Jackson says he has also received death threats from Jewish extremists.

Mr Jackson shows no signs of remorse for voicing views which few white political figures would care or dare to express. Defending the Arab League contributions, he points out that the influence of Arab nations on American political life is tiny compared with that of the Jewish lobby... besides, Operation Push is a charitable and not a political concern, he says.

In his speeches Mr Jackson never fails to condemn the Reagan Administration's pro-South African stance and likes to embarrass his rivals by calling on them publicly to advocate policy of trade sanctions and divestment if they become president.

One effect of Mr Jackson's involvement in the Presidential race has been to make his seven rivals rethink their position on foreign issues. As a result they have become less eurocentric in their approach and pay more attention to Third World issues.

US election guide

US PRIMARY AND CAUCUS CALENDAR FOR 1984

The Democratic national convention will be held in San Francisco July 16-19. The Republican convention takes place a month later in Dallas August 20-23

State	Democrats		Republicans	
	Delegates	Caucuses	Delegates	Caucuses
Ala	52	March 13	38	March 3
Alaska	14	March 14	18	Apr-May
Ariz	39	April 14	32	May
Ark	42	Mar 17-31	29	Jan-Feb
Calif	31	June 5	35	June 5
Colo	51	May-June	35	May-July
Conn	60	March 14	35	March 2
Dele	18	March 14	39	May-June
D.C.	19	May 1	12	May 1
Florida	143	March 13	84	March 3
Georgia	84	March 13	37	March 3
Hawaii	27	March 13	14	Jan-May
Idaho	22	May 24	21	May 22
Ill	194	March 20	93	March 2
Ind	88	May 8	52	May 8
Iowa	58	Feb-May	37	Feb-June
Kansas	44	Mar-Apr	32	May-June
Ky	63	Mar 17-31	37	Mar-May
La	68	March 4	41	April 7
Maine	74	May 8	31	May 8
Mass	116	Mar-Apr	52	March 3
Mich	137	Mar-Apr	77	Jan 27-28
Minn	86	Mar-May	32	Mar-June
Miss	43	Mar-Apr	30	June 5
Missouri	26	April-May	47	Mar-June
Montana	25	March 25	20	June 5
Neb	30	May 15	24	May 15
Nevada	22	Mar-Apr	22	Apr-May
New Hamp	30	Feb 28	22	March 6
N.J.	122	June 5	64	June 5
N.Mex	28	June 5	24	June 5
N.Y.	285	April 3	136	April 3
N.Car	88	May 8	53	May 8
N.Hamp	18	Mar 14-28	18	Jan-Apr
Ohio	175	May 8	89	May 8
Oklahoma	53	Mar-Apr	35	Mar-Apr
Oregon	50	May 15	32	May 15
Penn	195	April 24	98	April 4
R.I.	27	March 13	14	March 3
S.C.	48	Mar 17-26	33	Feb-Apr
S.Dak	19	June 5	19	June 5
Tenn	76	May 1	48	May 1
Texas	200	May 5-19	109	May 5
Utah	27	Apr-June	26	Apr-June
Vermont	17	April 24	19	Apr-May
Virginia	78	Mar-May	50	Jan-June
Wash	70	Mar-June	43	Mar-July
W.Virginia	44	June 5	19	June 5
Wisconsin	89	Mar-May	46	April 3
Wyoming	15	March 10	18	Feb-Mar
Am Samoa	6	March 13	4	Mar-Apr
Dems abroad	5	mid-April	4	Mar-Apr
Lat Amer Dems	5	Mar 17	4	Mar-Apr
Puerto Rico	53	March 18	14	Feb 18
Virgin Is	6	June 5	4	May 3

BOB FOSSE congratulates ARTURO BRACHETTI the star of 'Y'



"The show is glossy dazzling showbiz at its very best. Arturo Brachetti is remarkable," said the creator of "Cabaret" with Liza Minnelli after seeing the Musical Cabaret "Y" at the Piccadilly Theatre.

THE ARTS

Operetta

Deliciously poised

atience
oliseum

letter to *The Times* in 1973 complained that there were only instead of the requisite 20 vesick maidens visible in Oly Carte's production of *Herbert and Sullivan's* "new and original Aesthetic Opera". *atience* has indeed been tried and tested rigorously in the last decade or two and nowhere are so than at English national Opera where, for 15 ars, John Cox's production s had to keep itself firmly on S. toes.

Now there is new compe- tion up the road at New Pri- er's Wells, and "utterly unsumably" very much on a mettle. John Stoddart's signs, originally exhibited in 169 at the National Portrait allery alongside George Du laurier's *Punch* cartoons, shine at as joyfully as the sunflower, th the Watteauesque chapel early ornate and the delightful liry greens of the stencil are elegantly silhouetted.

And, because John Cox has turned in person to direct this 70 vival, the staging still wears a s assiduous research lightly, the comic business is as deftly a lamed here to Sullivan's mock ser allianisms as it is characteristi- ally, elsewhere to the real Ze- ing. Where the first act boy rears truly to become a case the f "toffee for breakfast, toffee Zor dinner, toffee for tea", a tirker of verbal timing or the udden crash and turn of a in heral repetition add tang to the wit.

Each inflexion, each colour fol- lage, from pastel to primary, ovi s reflected in the pit by Victor s, Morris's assive direction, op here it always moves with just off its springy, catlike tread re- squired by this score.

By the production itself has bridged well, then so have its c- vncipals. Derek Hammond- N-Stroud seems to have shed He years, even, vocally and physi- ologically, in the everlasting bloom de of his Bunthorne. His "Sing for high to you" duet with Lady ge Jane is a masterpiece of an understatement, as fresh in its tok ret



Derek Hammond-Stroud: everlasting bloom

wit and dexterity as if Hinge and Bracket had never been born. Lady Jane herself is amply embodied once more by Anne Collins, delicious in her uncrushable dignity, and a splendid warning to all those tempted to adverbial prodigality.

At the centre stands ENO's first Welsh Patience: Patricia O'Neill, taking the role for the first time, brings to it just enough coyness not to cloy, and an inflexion ("I yearn my living") that could have been written into the part. Shlagh Squires returns as Lady Saphir, while the remaining rapturous maidens add to the evening's debuts.

Jane Eaglen, who has just joined the company, is clearly far more than the tinkling cymbal she flourishes as Lady Ella: we look forward to hearing more, and in different guise, of her distinctively resonant soprano, Sally Burgess's urbane Lady Angela provides a pleasing foil, as does Christopher Booth-Jones's Grosvenor to Bunthorne. He, too, makes his debut in the role here, and presents a portrait of "fourteenth-century frenzy" which is as nicely poised between the distant and the immediate as the entire production.

Hilary Finch

Sense of tragedy survives all the inconsistencies

Star 80 (18)

Gate Bloomsbury; Classic Haymarket

Strange Invaders (PG)

Studio Oxford Circus

Curse of the Pink Panther (PG)

Plaza

Star 80 confirms Bob Fosse's fascination with the morbid and mortal dark side of fame, already evident in *Lenny* and *All That Jazz*. It is a dramatization of the true story of Dorothy Stratten, a naive and beautiful youngster who went from Canada to California; became briefly a star in Hugh Hefner's *Playboy* galaxy; made a few forgettable films before she met Peter Bogdanovich and played in his *Let Them Laugh*; tumbled into romantic involvement with Bogdanovich; and was murdered by her jealous husband-manager, who took his own life at the same time.

The case has evidently a strong fascination. Since the tragedy, in 1980, Teresa Carpenter has won the Pulitzer Prize with her *Village Voice* article "Death of a Playmate", on which Fosse's own script is "in part" based. There has been a television feature film *Death of a Centerfold*; the *Dorothy Stratten Story*; and Peter Bogdanovich is on the point of publishing his own account of the affair.

As Fosse sees the story, Paul Snider is a small-time pimp and hustler who sees his big break in Dorothy. His push launches her, but the first step up the ladder already takes her out of his class. Incurably cheap and gaudy, he is despised by the smooth *Playboy* lot, and even the artless and good-natured Dorothy quickly recognizes that he has become a liability. Her success meanwhile sharpens his own sense of failure in everything he does, whether organizing male strip-shows or marketing dubious orthopaedic goods.

Probably Fosse himself feared that this story of *Boy Meets Girl*, *Girl Leaves Boy*, *Boy Sings Girl* was rather thin for a dramatic film. The solution



Pushy yet pitiful: Eric Roberts as Paul Snider questions a Playboy Bunny (Tina Willson) about the activities of his wife in *Star 80*

he attempts to elaborate it with the somewhat demodé "mosaic" (or, rather, crazy-quilt) structure, cutting backwards and forwards between not very-enigmatic flashes of the murder, *post facto* interviews with the survivors of the story, and the progression of the doomed romance. The method has two major disadvantages. It effectively removes suspense, since we know from the start the outcome. This sort of fragmentation, and the flashy cutting entailed, make it hard to explore the characters very deeply. Depth, though, is not much in Fosse's style. His interest is in externals.

The externals are, of course, glittery and catching. The director of photography is Sven Nykist, who has caught the bright colour and light and look of *Playboy* glamour. The metamorphosis of Dorothy (Marie Hemingway) from a lively high-school girl to a sultry and provocative temptress is fascinatingly detailed. So is all the depressing, aseptic, confectioned sensuality of the Hefner world,

peopled by fluffy pink girls and men with blue-rinsed hair and gold chains. Marie Hemingway's performance is touching, and intimates that it may be because there is no evident real father in her life (we see only her protective, bewildered mother, nicely played by Carroll Baker) that she is so dependent on a dangerous succession of strong-willed men - Snider, Hefner and Bogdanovich. (Bogdanovich is the only character who is not given his real-life name; the casting of an English actor, Roger Rees and the change of name suggests an unwilling effort to disclaim the identification.)

More remarkable is the performance of Eric Roberts as Snider. This is only Roberts's third film appearance in six years, which is all the stranger since his playing in both *King of the Gypsies* and *Raggedy Man* was outstanding. In *Star 80* he is cast against his own ordinarily fresh and sympathetic type, and has to overcome the inherent inconsistencies and unsubtleties of the script. His Snider

is cheap, violent, unprincipled, pushy and repellently dressed, even when he drops the pimp style for the *Playboy*. His innate violence appears early and nastily in the film when he playfully stabs a prom party dancer with a flick-knife. Yet Roberts still manages to build such a sense of pity about this lonely, hopeless, out-of-his-depth punk that the climactic scene of slaughter and necrophilia touches on tragedy.

The reassuring optimism of *Strange Invaders* makes it an exception among science-fiction films. We are accustomed to apocalyptic presentiments of doom. The message of this film is that nothing is as bad as it seems, even if the space people snatch your wives and children and the Government is, in some sort of conspiracy with them. When all the special effects are done and the last false face has been juicily peeled off, the peace and order of Middle America are restored.

The script is not very coherent, but the film has two things in its favour.

One is a moment of poetry and a hint of what the film might have been: when a man aged by ten years of worry is reunited with his wife and children who have stayed untouched by the intervening years. The other is the casting of Paul LeMat, the leading man from *Jonathan Demme's Citizens Band* and *Melvin and Howard*. LeMat is a chubby, amiable, anxious, untidy young man whose shirt is always tumbling out of trousers that seem themselves on the point of subsidence; and who has a way of impressing belief, both in his worries and his warmth. *Strange Invaders* was directed by Michael Laughlin, and written by him in collaboration with William Condon.

Curse of the Pink Panther is a further eerie attempt to keep Inspector Clouseau alive after the death of his creator, Peter Sellers. In last year's *Trail of the Pink Panther* a lot of old Sellers' footage was uncomfortably patched into a new story. *Curse of the Pink Panther* is more ingenious, in dispensing with the need to produce Clouseau in person. The *Surex* decides on to put the best detective in the world on the job of finding the mislaid inspector - but Clouseau's boss (Herbert Lom), fearful of the return of his distressing subordinate, programmes the computer to find the world's worst detective.

This produces New York's least wanted cop, Clifton Sleigh, played by Ted Wass, and clearly a try-out as permanent successor to Sellers' Clouseau. Wass is a comedian in the mould of Harold Lloyd, with the same horn-rimmed spectacles, college-boy earnestness and tendency to get shoved out of high windows. He even does bit of actual Lloyd business with a suit that has shrunk after a dipping in a swimming pool.

Given the chance of the kind of sight gag that Blake Edwards does best (there is a fine moment with a high wind and an umbrella), Wass comes into his own. Like the film in general, however, the sight gag is mostly of the time by the script which is witty, laboured and generally witless. Blake Edwards is clearly in need of a writer. As his own scenarioist he is worst when he is smutty.

The appearances of a frail David Niven, who has had to be provided with a dubbed voice, and of Peter Arne, who was subsequently murdered, add to the film's somewhat morbid, Burke-and-Hare resurrectionism.

David Robinson

ECO/Bedford

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Nothing is ever quite fixed in the world of music: even Mozart is changed for those lucky enough to have heard Murray Perahia's performance on Wednesday of the A major Piano Concerto, K488, stern in its total seriousness yet affectionate in its beauty. In the case of Britten, however, revision of attitudes is proving unusually wholesale, widespread and rapid, and new merit is constantly being found in later works formerly judged problematic.

Concerts

We shall have opportunities to reconsider *Gloriana* at the Coliseum next month and *Owen Wingrave* at Aldeburgh in June, as was reported here last week (*Albert Herring* still awaits its champion). Meanwhile performances and recordings are discovering the life in two concert works that puzzled Britten's admirers in the early 1960s: the *War Requiem*, thought to be too popular to be intelligent, and the Cello Symphony, considered too intelligent to be viable.

It was the latter that Raphael Wallfisch so valiantly and successfully rescued in this third evening of the English Chamber Orchestra's valuable Mozart-Britten series.

Perhaps the work's difficulties for the listener stem from the centrality of the cello, which makes an uncharacteristic viewpoint into the texture of a Britten composition: one is much more used to hearing his music in terms of high voices and instruments. But the soloist's main worry, once he has tucked away all the virtuosity, must be that the almost continuous cello soliloquy is so much voiced for Rostropovich's musical personality.

Mr Wallfisch got around this problem with his conscientiousness and honesty. He took on personal responsibility for the tense argument of the first movement, for the scherzo's dance and for the adagio's dark wanderings; he then backed with a touch of permissible pride in the glory of the concluding passacaglia.

Of course the Rostropovich mannerisms - the intense high trills, the large bowings - were still there: they were written into the score. But they were allusions, not caricatures, along a thorny path Mr Wallfisch was exploring for himself, albeit with encouraging support from the orchestra under Stuart Bedford.

This orchestra's sympathetic response to Mr Perahia one now takes for granted, which is no bad thing if it allows one to concentrate on Mr Perahia. He began K488 by drawing from the surrings a smooth legato he proved well able to match at the keyboard, in sounds of sweet melancholy softened by distance. The slow movement he brought forward, finding an initial eccentricity that his playing then accommodated, before a finale that did not falter from the performance's elevated plateau.

Paul Griffiths

LMP/Blech

Festival Hall

Times have changed since the London Mozart Players, who in this concert celebrated their thirty-fifth birthday, first enriched the capital's concert life with what were then comparatively stylish, small-scale performances of Haydn and Mozart. Even the tradition-bound English Chamber Orchestra has been perceptibly influenced by the Hogworts.

But under the distinguished guiding hand of its director, Harry Blech, this ensemble has remained entrenched in its ways. Only in the seating of the orchestra (with first and second violins placed opposite each other) can any nod in the direction of authenticity be perceived. Now, though, some sort of revitalizing force is needed, and maybe Mr Blech himself has recognized that, for at the end of the season he relinquishes his post to Jane Glover.

But for the time being, the relaxed tempos and blunt articulation remain, and no continuo instrument is allowed to encroach upon Mr Blech's hallowed ground. Fair enough perhaps in the full textures of Mozart's Symphony No 40, but a crucial mistake in Haydn's Symphony No 49 ("La Passione"), where there are obvious gaps in the harmony.

More worrying than such matters was the generally uninspired approach to the music, particularly in the Haydn. The wide leaps in the fast second movement, which heighten the pathos implicit in the diminished intervals of the minor scale, had virtually no impact. And, where its *Sturm und Drang* effects should have had you on the edge of your seat, the Menuetto simply plodded dutifully. Nevertheless, full marks to the horns. Happily the outer movements of the Mozart, played in the version without clarinets, had a greater sense of tension, but again the Andante and Menuetto sounded laboured.

The two concertos failed to lighten the burden of an arduous evening's listening. Malcolm Messiter gave the first movement of Mozart's C major Oboe Concerto with an almost manic energy that had obviously spent itself by the finale. And Ernst Kovacic played a Haydn Violin Concerto in the same key with just the sort of lavish romanticism that it did not need.

Stephen Pettitt

Television
Three-chord trick

All demonstrated that, however their horizons had expanded, they could still strum away. Dr Silver reflected on the emergence of the guitar, then a comparatively rare instrument here.

Others went on to greater musical achievement - John Lennon, in whose native Liverpool 300 skiffle groups, each with its coterie of devotees, competed for public attention.

THE CRITICS' 10 BEST '83

"Best picture of '83: without question, Ingmar Bergman's opulent period recreation"

"Very fine - one of the years' best films"

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LAST DAYS

BORN IN FLAMES (15)

4.20, 6.30, 8.45, 10.15

ELECTRIC

(PORTUGAL ROAD)

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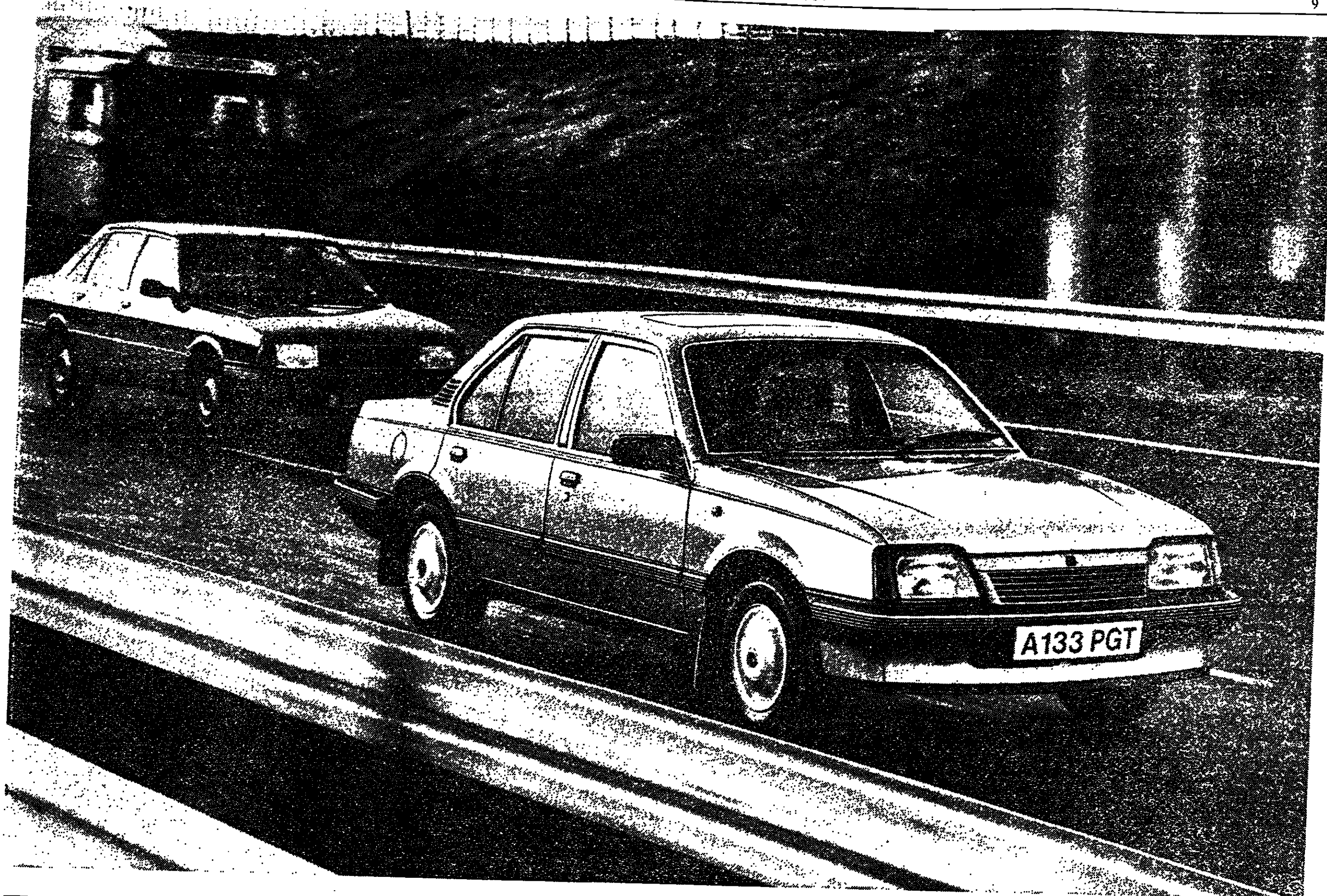
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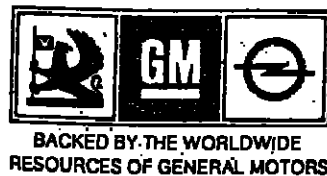
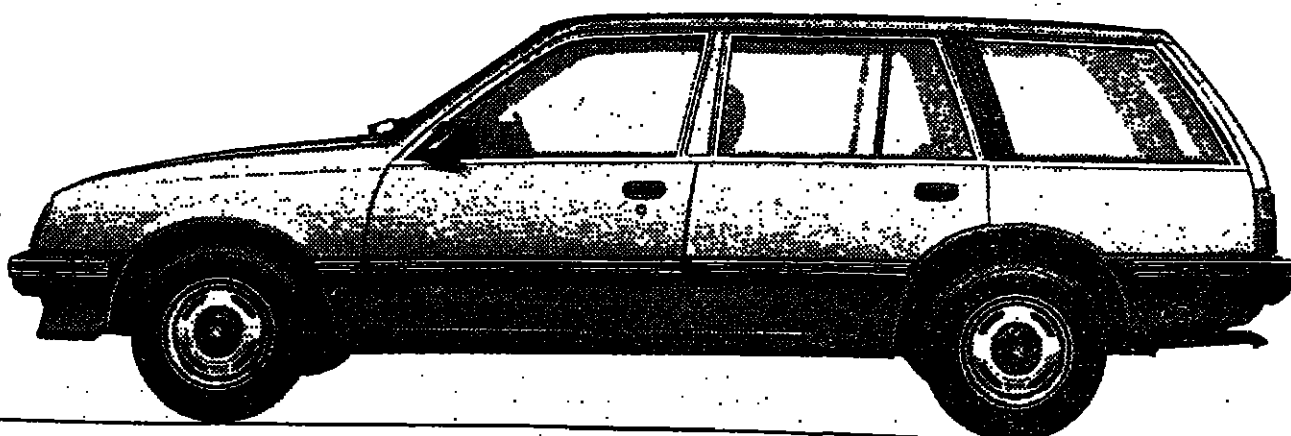
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SPECTRUM

FINDINGS SPECIAL: Super Computers

1st Generation

Designed in the mid-1940s by John von Neumann and built with thermionic valves. Fast, cumbersome and prone to break down frequently

2nd

Introduced in the late 1950s and built with separate transistors. Far more reliable and compact

3rd

In the late 1960s, several electronic components were combined on a small silicon wafer or chip as an integrated circuit. Size and manufacturing costs fell

4th

In the early 1980s Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) put hundreds of thousands of components on a chip. Made possible hundreds of millions of sums per second

5th

Arriving in the 1990s? New architectures and software will be capable of intelligent processing of knowledge, rather than earlier data processing

Japan and the United States are racing to develop the 'fifth generation' of computers - machines which will calculate a thousand times faster than the present generation and which will be able to converse in non-technical language. The prize is economic supremacy in the 1990s.

Today's computers still follow the relatively simple architecture invented by John von Neumann for the primitive vacuum-tube machines of the 1940s. They have a central memory and processing unit, which performs calculations one by one. The single link between memory and processor has come to be known as the "von Neumann bottleneck" because of the limit it places on the computer's operating speed.

The "non-von Neumann architectures", with which researchers are experimenting for the Fifth Generation, rely on some form of parallel processing. The processors and memories are decentralized, and the computer gains speed by carrying out many different calculations at the same time. The difficulty, of course, is to keep the operations synchronized and prevent the computer racing into chaos when central control is removed.

One popular approach is "data flow", invented by Jack Dennis at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and espoused by John Gurd at Manchester University, where a group has built a small experimental data flow computer. Another British team, headed by John Darington at Imperial College, is working on a machine called Alice, based on a variation of the same principle.

The chart (above, right) shows how data flow would cope with a very simple calculation:

$$(2+5) \times (3+5) + (4+5) \times 5$$

Described in words, the operations is: Add 2 to 5, add 3 to 5, and multiply those two sums. Add 4 to 5 and multiply by 5. Finally add together the results of the two multiplications.

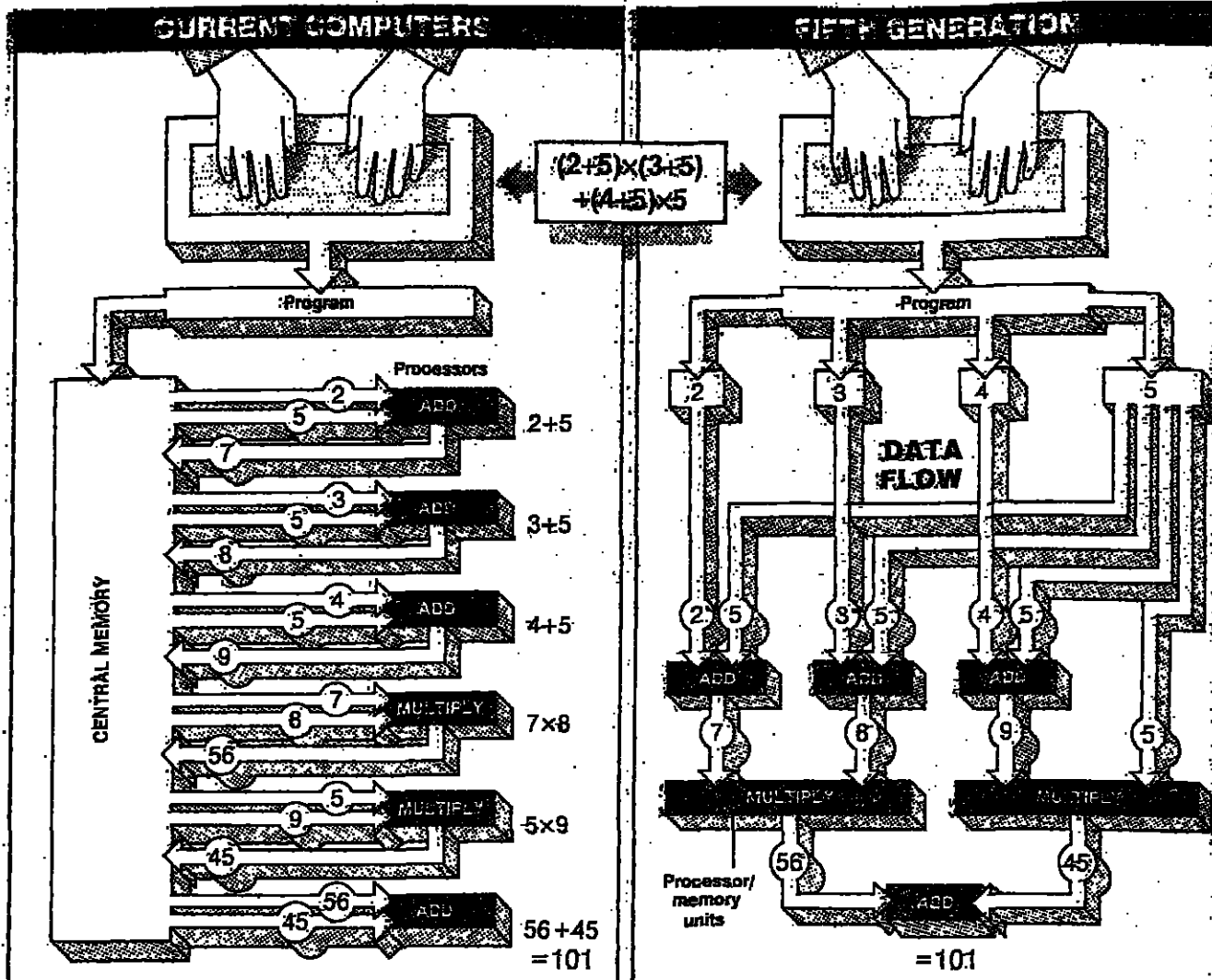
The traditional sequential method required six consecutive steps:

$$\begin{aligned} 2+5 &= 7 \\ 3+5 &= 8 \\ 4+5 &= 9 \\ 7 \times 8 &= 56 \\ 9 \times 5 &= 45 \\ 56+45 &= 101 \text{ (final answer)} \end{aligned}$$

In the data flow computer, the four starting numbers (2, 3, 4 and 5) are sent as independent "data packets" to the "nodes" (processors) that do the calculations as soon as the data arrive. So three separate copies of 5 go to the different adding nodes, and a fourth goes to a multiplying node.

The three first-stage additions take place simultaneously, and the results are sent on to the two multiplying nodes, which again work simultaneously and transmit their answers for the final addition.

In this example, the data flow calculations took place in three phases rather than the six steps of the consecutive method. In real problems, hundreds of operations might be going on simultaneously, saving an enormous amount of time.



CHIPS

The alternative microchip

There is a complete contrast between the unchanging architecture of commercial computers and the astonishing pace of improvement in their most important components - from valves and transistors to today's microchips, which pack several hundred thousand transistors onto a wafer of silicon smaller than a fingernail.

Semiconductor researchers are pursuing various approaches to make sure that the rate of progress does not slacken. The most obvious is to cram more and more onto a conventional silicon chip by further miniaturization. The components on today's most sophisticated commercial chips are only two or three microns wide (a micron is one-thousandth of a millimetre or one-fiftieth the diameter of a human hair).

With new-etching techniques (using far-ultraviolet X-rays or electron beams) it may be possible in the 1990s to mass-produce chips with features measuring half-a-micron across, containing several million components - although all the electrical activity on such a small area would produce a formidable problem for designers.

Experimental alternatives to the silicon chip are now emerging.

● **Wafer-scale integration**, in which the circuitry of many chips is combined on a much larger wafer of silicon, 10 centimetres across. That allows much faster communication

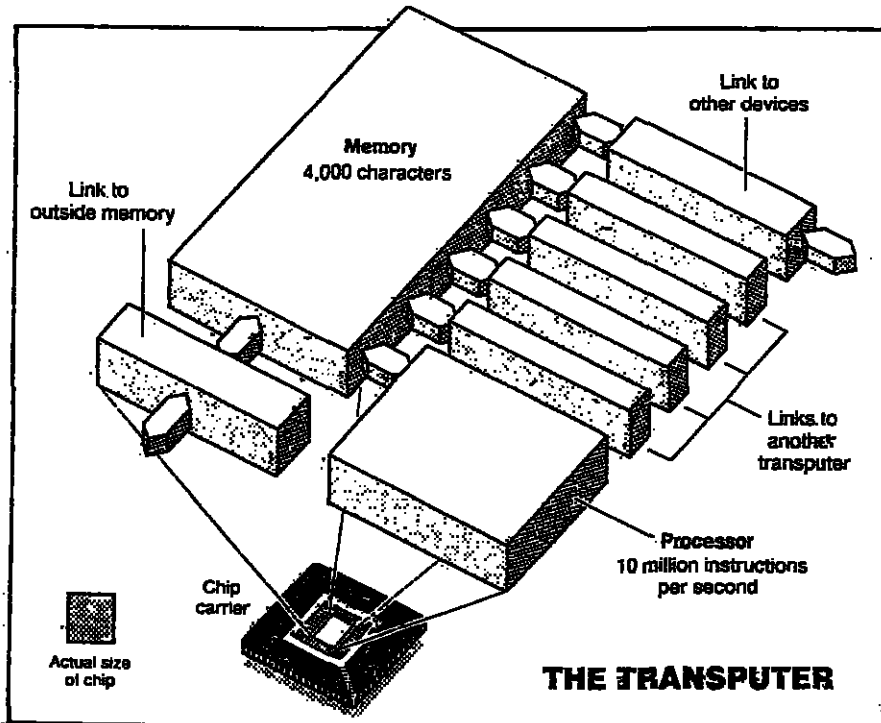
than between separate chips. But inevitable defects in such a large area of silicon make manufacture more tricky.

● **Three-dimensional chips**, in which the circuitry is stacked up on several layers. But the manufacturing details of "high-rise" technology have not been worked out.

● **Gallium arsenide (GaAs)** as an alternative semiconductor to silicon. Electrons can move through GaAs five times faster than through silicon. GaAs is close to mass-production.

● **Combining previously separate**

functions on a single chip. The best example is the "transputer" which Immos, Britain's state-backed chip company, hopes to begin manufacturing in about a year's time. It includes processor, memory and communications on a conventional-sized chip (see illustration below). This combination not only enables the processor to go 10 times faster than any conventional chip (up to 10 million instructions per second) but also makes the transputer an ideal building-block for decentralized Fifth Generation computers.



moreover... Miles Kingdon

Come back Temple Bar, all is forgiven

Should Temple Bar be brought back to London or be allowed to remain in damp Hertfordshire? As the controversy rages on, I am pleased to print

the best of the many letters I have received on the subject.

From Lord Bracket

Sir, There may not be many of your readers old enough, like me, to remember a time when Temple Bar was in Fleet Street. I often used to repair there after work for a quick drink or two before going home, and I can still remember the brilliant talk offered by such men as G. K. Chesterton, F. E. Smith, H. G. Wells and T. S. Eliot. One day Aldous Huxley tried to get in, but he was banned on the grounds that he had no initials. A. E. W. Mason was allowed in on sufferance, but we all felt that having three initials was a little nouveau riche.

I feel there is far too much use of first names these days - some people seem to have nothing but first names, like Clive James and Alan Brien, yours etc

From Mr J. L. Simpson

Sir, It seems fairly obvious to me that nobody wants the Temple Bar and that if it did not exist, there would be no need to invent it. In which case, there seem to be two options open to us. We can either sell it to a gullible American and have it re-erected at enormous cost in the Arizona desert, or destroy it entirely.

It so happens that I have developed a new process which demolishes buildings into their component parts and leaves every brick unhurt and clearly numbered. This is so that, when the inevitable protest comes from the sentimental British, the monument can be speedily re-erected at very little extra cost. I look forward to hearing from the owners, yours etc

From Mr A. Gang

Sir, We have got the Temple Bar. Unless you leave £2m in untraceable fivers under it, you will never see it again, yours etc



Temple Bar: £2m in untraceable fivers, or else... we are not kidding

From Mr Duncan Pilger

Sir, I have incontrovertible proof that in case of nuclear war, Temple Bar is to be used as a regional cause of traffic jams. It is well known that the Government will not let Londoners leave the capital after the balloon goes up, and that all roads are to be blocked by half-demolished monuments. I need only cite Kensington Town Hall, etc. There is no way Temple Bar will be brought back to London. It is part of the Government's war plans, as my forthcoming Channel 4 series will help to show, yours etc

From Mr A. Gang

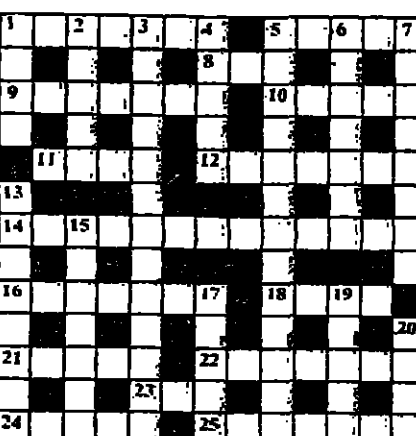
Sir, We are not kidding. We have got the Temple Bar. Let's see your money. We enclose a brick to show that we mean business, yours etc

From Mrs Mahonia Jackson

Sir, As someone who works in the Fleet Street area and knows that it is,

already crowded enough without Temple Bar being brought back, I have a revolutionary suggestion: why not take Fleet Street out to Hertfordshire? The newspaper industry would be much better suited to the back of beyond, where the lorries with their huge loads of what look like the world's biggest lavatory rolls would cause no traffic jams. While they are at it, they could take away those tramps who gather in the shadow of the hot air vents behind Bouverie Street. I suppose they are all ex-editors of the News of the World, yours etc

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 270)



ACROSS
1 John Wyndham novel (7)
2 Trial panelist (5)
3 Engineer union (11, 1)
4 Chivalrous (7)
5 Circular (5)
6 Legend (4)
7 Frolic (7)
8 Quilt sooner (6, 7)
9 Heavy downpour (7)
10 Ship floor (4)
11 Cooked in fat (5)
12 Weaken courage (7)
13 Ulmus tree (3)
14 Shockingly detailed (5)
15 On before (7)
16 Ship floor (4)
17 Cooked in fat (5)
18 Weaken courage (7)
19 Ulmus tree (3)
20 Shockingly detailed (5)
21 On before (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 269
ACROSS: 1 Gothic 5 Space 8 Bliv 9 Scampi 10 Revamp 11 Trot 12 Downfall 14 Industrial 17 Stagnate 19 Ogre 21 Trivia 23 Timber 24 Psi 25 Client 26 Awaiting
DOWN: 2 Occur 3 Hamstrung 4 Chindit 5 Straw 6 Rev 7 Cumulus 13 Follow man 15 Natural 16 Inertia 18 Adapt 20 Recruit 22 Vic

EXPERT SYSTEMS

Machines that answer back

The first practical application of intelligence is in "expert systems". The computer programs enable machines to answer questions and solve problems in specialist fields, such as medicine and the use of knowledge and decision-making rules distilled from human experts.

Current expert systems can demonstrate their "intelligence" by explaining to users, when asked, the reasoning that led to a particular piece of advice. But the next generation will be intelligent in a more fundamental sense, having the ability to induce knowledge from examples or analogy; by learning in this way they should be able to outperform the human experts.

An example of the sort of system that should be feasible within 20 years is a writing aid to turn badly written English into perfect prose. Consider this semi-literate sentence:

THEIR WAS A MAT, AND IT WAS SAT ON BY A FAT CAT.

The first and easiest step is to check the spelling of each word against the computer's dictionary. It shows that Cat was misspelt. The computer then tries changing, removing, transposing and adding letters one at a time to produce a word that does exist in the dictionary. CAT and CART emerge as possibilities.

To decide which, if either, is correct, the computer searches its vast memory, derived from experience of English prose. CAT appears much more likely and the machine adopts it as the right word, but CART cannot be ruled out completely. So it now reads:

THEIR WAS A MAT, AND IT WAS SAT ON BY A FAT CAT.

Next, the computer gives every word a grammatical tag and examines the overall syntax. This shows up THEIR as another spelling mistake, since the sentence could not start with a possessive adjective followed by a verb. Again, the computer applies the experience stored in its memory and replaces their with THERE.

THERE WAS A MAT, AND IT WAS SAT ON BY A FAT CAT.

The remaining stages rely on stylistic rules - prefer active to passive voice, and make sentences as brief as possible without losing information. Processing information at a rate of billions of bits per second, the computer of the year 2004 quickly proceeds to

THERE WAS A MAT, AND A FAT CAT SAT ON IT.

and finally

A FAT CAT SAT ON THE MAT.

Clive Cookson
Graphics by John Grimwade

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

- Weekend breaks: From Budapest to Bangor
- Art for collecting's sake: How to be a Bunnell
- Family Money: Taxing problems and the Budget
- Football: Preview of FA Cup matches
- An even bigger splash at the Getty Museum
- Sir Roy Strong on domestic problems

PLUS: News from home and abroad; bulbs in the garden; Drink on tools of the trade; Review of the month's video cassettes; Values looks at wallpapers; Family life visits a museum of childhood; a critical guide to the week's arts; Bridge and Chess

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FRIDAY PAGE

Sybil Bedford's past is there for all to deduce in the pages of her novels, but Clare Colvin discovers that her present is altogether more of a closed book

Journeys in a vanished world

Although Sybil Bedford's books clearly have a strong autobiographical element, she prefers that her own life remains an enigma. Yet it has provided her with enough material to write three novels, crammed with rich, restless people who spend much of their lives making train journeys to escape the consequences of their actions. It is a world that vanished some time between the wars, and it almost vanished in fiction too, but finally the novels are to be reissued — a case of "Bedford Revisited".

She has been accused of indulging in nostalgia. Now, it seems, the wheel has come full circle.

"I can truthfully say I have never looked over my shoulder, and never looked at the market", she said when I met her. "I can write well only about something that has happened long ago. Sometimes you feel it is against the swim, but I think writers should write within their own range. If you are publicly accused of nostalgia, you find it very difficult not to be self-conscious. At the time I wrote *A Legacy* it seemed quite normal to be dealing with the 1870s and 1910."

In her youth, Sybil Bedford was shuttled back and forth across Germany, Italy, France and England in a series of family upheavals. She has now settled in a house in one of the prettiest parts of Chelsea, near the Embankment. As a connoisseur of good food and wine — the meals in her books are lovingly described — she is delighted with the neighbourhood shops where fresh meat and other unEnglish things can be bought. The flat, in contrast to the opulence portrayed in her books, is sparsely furnished.

Her conversation is a mixture of hesitancy and a rush of words. In her novels the characters talk in brief,

staccato sentences, and she has the same brittle, though not unfriendly, style. She is hesitant about identifying the characters she writes about with herself or her family. I mentioned a paragraph in *A Compass Error* in which she dealt with the difficulty of writing Mrs Bedford gently corrected me. That was, of course, the character of Flavia talking, not to be confused with herself, though she did indeed find writing as hard as ever. "I really shun work sometimes."

The autobiographical clues are evident, though. In *A Legacy*, a South German baron sends the younger of his two sons to a military school, the brutality of which causes the boy to go mad. Years later, still mad but a captain, he is shot by a corporal. The ensuing scandal — arising from the fact that a lunatic could be promoted in a crack Prussian regiment and draw full pay, rocks the Kaiser's government. Mrs Bedford is the daughter of a South German baron, and there had been a scandal when her father's brother was killed by a fellow officer, though the circumstances were different. She left Germany in the 1920s, at the age of nine, after the death of her father, and did not return until she reported on the Auschwitz trials in Frankfurt in the 1950s.

"The atmosphere of the book was based on what I remembered, and on family stories. It is written with great loving of Germany, but with restraint. I never did any research and, looking at it now, I am surprised where I plucked all the material from. I do think that is the way a work of fiction should be written. Something swims up in one's subconscious. I am astonished by the things I know and do not know how. When my father died,

the estate was sold and it was as if it had never happened — this German past. It stayed suspended in amber."

From Germany, the young Sybil was taken to Italy when her mother married an Italian. *A Favourite of the Gods* is about three generations of women — the American Anna who marries and Italian prince, her daughter Constanza, and Constanza's own daughter Flavia. There is a great sense of loss in the book. Anna, dazzled by Italy when she marries the prince, cannot adapt her North American puritanism to acceptance of her husband's infidelities, and she leaves the palazzo to live on her own after 20 years. The beautiful and intelligent Constanza is encouraged by her mother to make what turns out to be a disastrous marriage. Once "the favourite of the gods", she is rejected on all sides and retreats with Flavia to an isolated village in the south of France.

I suggested that the unfortunate marriage was the cause of Constanza's subsequent unhappiness, but Mrs Bedford felt that an outside agent could not be blamed. "We all ruin our own lives. I am sure we do. I set out to write about someone who is a 'favourite'. You have everything, good health, good looks, lively disposition, and then it goes wrong. I don't know what the answer is... you have to have something you are committed to."

Mrs Bedford's own mother was "a mixture of nationalities, partly Jewish — I cannot go into it, it is too complicated". Together with Sybil's stepfather, they disseminated anti-Mussolini literature in the late 1920s. Sybil used to take from family to family copies of the *New Statesman* hidden under her pinafore, the theory being that if she were caught even Fascist Italians would not harm a child. Finally the



Sybil Bedford: "I can write well only about something that has happened long ago"

authorities hinted that her own family were becoming *persona non grata* and they retreated to settle in France.

It was in Provence, in the village of Sanary-sur-Mer that Sybil came across writers, and began her own writing. There was a clique of Germans, including Thomas Mann and Bertolt Brecht, "who thought they were gods and gave readings of their work in progress. I became their work in progress. I became great friends with the two eldest

children, but Thomas Mann was very pompous. I thought his brother, Heinrich, was a great writer and I loved his son, Klaus, who killed himself after the war. Brian Howard used to come down in the summer. He was immensely amusing and witty — for the first half of the evening. And then there was Aldous Huxley. I was such a fan of his as an adolescent that I insisted on being taken along to meet him."

Her friendship with the Huxleys

resulted many years later in her writing a two-volume biography, published in 1973 and 1974. For a novelist accustomed to inventing her work, dealing with detailed facts was "a labour of love". It was, she said, like wearing chains all the time. She wrote factual books on law cases, such as the Dr Bodkin Adams trial. "He was an eccentric man, munching apples in the dock. He was patently innocent, but he turned the medical profession against him." She wrote *The Faces of Justice*, a report on law courts in England, France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, and covered for newspapers the trial of Jack Ruby at Dallas, and the "Lady Chatterley" and Stephen Ward trials at the Old Bailey. Her interest in law stemmed from the age of 12 or 13, when a kindly policeman let her into the Courts of Justice. She wanted to become a barrister, but vagaries of the family fortunes intervened, and in any event, she was told, a woman's voice sounded silly in court. No one would ever take a woman barrister seriously.

Her third novel, *A Compass Error*, is set in a Provencal village called St Jean. Flavia, 17, left on her own by her mother, who is travelling with a lover, is taken up by a colony of artists and writers, and experiences her first love affair with the wife of an artist. This lesbian relationship is written about discreetly, but nevertheless it brings into the open what was only hinted at in the earlier books.

"People can be in love in an entirely platonic way, regardless of age or sex", Mrs Bedford said. "It happens all the time. You often find it between very young men and older women. It is difficult to write about love between women unself-consciously, but by the time the story was published in 1969 the climate of opinion had changed. In the 1950s the topic was almost unmentionable. In the theatre at that time, half the men were 'queer', but if any of the women had the slightest inclination it was a great drawback for them. Now everybody is making too much of a fuss about it. I even heard the other day of a Richmond and Kingston-upon-Thames Gay Society."

"I am not very feminist, but I believe there should be equal laws and equal taxation for men and women, and there are enormous difficulties between the sexes. Anyway, I seem to have got my own way, which you can do if you never explain, never apologize and never shock people."

A Favourite of the Gods and *A Compass Error* were published by Virago this month. *A Legacy* reappears in Fontana in May.

TALKBACK

New code for caring

From Kina, Lady Avebury, Centre for Policy on Aging
Audrey Slaughter's gloomy article about the boom in private residential homes for elderly people (Friday Page, February 10) must have given your readers the disturbing impression that private residential care is completely out of control and that elderly people enter such an establishment at their peril. It is the Centre's experience, based on five years intensive work with non-statutory residential care homes, that the private sector provides both the best and the worst standards of care, so older people in homes are not invariably being exploited for profit.

More importantly, however, Miss Slaughter neglected to mention that new legislation and accompanying regulations are shortly to be introduced by the Government which will make it impossible for "beady-eyed businessmen" to open or operate a home without first being able to demonstrate their qualifications and aptitude for caring for dependent people. The legislation, moreover, will be backed by a code of practice which is being drawn up by an independent working party, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Security, which will, for the first time, give social service departments and the public a yardstick by which to measure a "good home".

From T D Bamford, Chairman, British Association of Social Workers

Audrey Slaughter's article about private residential homes for the elderly clearly describes some of the pitfalls facing people trying to secure high quality care for their elderly relatives. While the article notes the mushrooming growth of private residential care in recent years, it does not identify the substantial subsidy which the tax-payer is providing to private homes through social security payments.

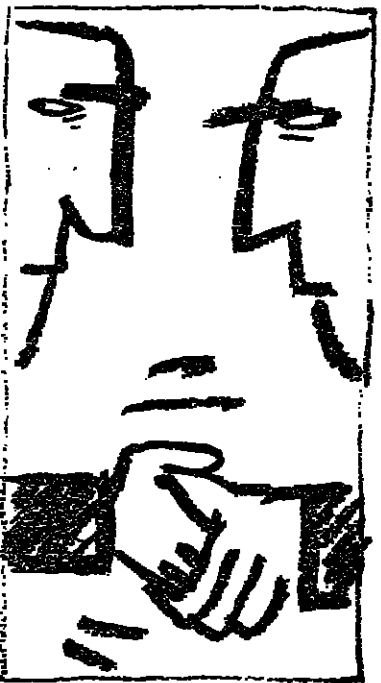
Residents in private homes who are not sponsored by a local authority or health authority may be eligible to have the full charge for the home met by supplementary benefit. In November last year arrangements for determining the level of charges were changed. Social security will now meet the highest reasonable charge for suitable accommodation in the area.

At the same time as opening up the scope for private entrepreneurs to increase their profit-margins, without regard to the needs of elderly residents, the Government is reducing the resources available to social services departments to maintain their own domiciliary and residential provision for the elderly. The Department of Health and Social Security is schizophrenic in its approach. At a time of scarce resources cash is being made available for one sector of residential provision through the benefits side of the DHSS while resources for public services are being ever more tightly constrained with the concurrence of DHSS Ministers.

Model choice

From Roderigo Moynihan, Lausanne, Switzerland
I must correct the assumptions in Deborah Moggach's article on the (Monday Page of February 6, on my work as a portrait painter. I like to paint from a model. Who and what they are is of secondary importance. Some of my more interesting portraits have been of academics."

Patricia Clough interprets the silent language behind the hugs and kisses The Russian arms that mean goodwill



Have you ever noticed that governments, like individuals, have a body language?

Take Yuri Andropov's funeral in Moscow this week. In a long significant shot, Soviet television focused on three men: Konstantin Chernenko, 72, the new leader Mikhail Gorbachev, 52 and Grigory Romanov, contenders for the leadership. In official line-ups only a week before they had been placed well back: now they stood next to Mr Chernenko. The mute message which went out to millions of Soviet manwatchers seems clear: the younger, reform-minded men will have their chance next time.

It seems curious, in an age when governments have instant global communications, embassies full of diplomats and the media to convey messages, threats, assurances and so on, that when public relations have been brought to a fine art, that it is often simple physical

gestures which reveal, more vividly than words, the real situations.

Body language is particularly important in communist countries which are not exactly famous for the openness of their decision-making processes or their trusting relations with other governments. Western diplomats in the communist blocs learn, like the inhabitants, to become highly-skilled political manwatchers, as quick to detect a non-verbal snub as they are to read between the lines in *Pravda*. For them, the Andropov funeral was a field day.

Richard Owen, *The Times* correspondent in Moscow and one of the few journalists present, says that at the post-funeral reception, Mrs Thatcher and Helmut Kohl, West German Chancellor, had long, animated chats with Mr Chernenko, while the vice-president, George Bush was given a brief, cool greeting.

It was no coincidence: it is all symbolic of the policy of being nice to the Europeans and tough with the Americans — in the hopes of driving a wedge into NATO.

I once watched as West Germany's chief representative in communist East Berlin, Herr Gunter Gaus, bade farewell to a top East German representative who had attended an official reception at the West German mission there. No sooner was the august visitor off the premises than Herr Gaus turned to his aides with shining eyes and enthused: "He stayed for 40 minutes! It was quite demonstrative!"

Well, I can't exactly remember if it was 40 minutes, but the man's physical presence at the party, sipping and indulging in polite, superficial chat was of a length to indicate quite clearly to his hosts that Moscow had given the green light for a period of better relations.

No doubt the news was flashed instantly to Bonn.

The warmth of the embrace and the three kisses which the Russians bestow on visiting comrades is a useful guide to the diligence with which they toe the Moscow line. The bear hugs once inflicted on diminutive Chinese communist frames, for instance have now dwindled into polite handshakes.

Not many Poles tend to go to Moscow and it is not clear exactly what happens to those who do, but the standard airport photographs in the Polish papers do not show them being hugged.

Westerners on the whole are spared such effusions, though Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, paid the price for his *Ospolilik* with a huge embrace from President Leonid Brezhnev. (His pretty Norwegian wife Rut got an even warmer one,

but Kremlinologists rule out any political significance in this.)

Mr Brezhnev, however, had the tables turned on him at the signing of the Salt Treaty in Vienna in 1979 when President Carter, apparently carried away by all the detente, impulsively embraced him. The Russian leader was clearly stunned.

The style, of course, varies considerably according to character. Mr Brezhnev and his colourful predecessor, Nikita Khrushchev, were great huggers and kissers. Mr Gromyko, a colder personality, is rather bad at it.

So carefully calibrated is every formal welcome that a foreign visitor can immediately gauge his own importance in political or protocol terms. The rank of the person who meets him, whether he comes forward to the aircraft steps or stays put, the size of the car that takes him into town, the speed it is driven at are all subtly graded.

Old folk's drugs

A recent Royal College of Physicians report warned doctors to take care when prescribing drugs for old people. Many old folk are given too many drugs for the wrong reasons, it argued.

Among other recommendations the report told doctors to tell any elderly person who needs a drug exactly why he or she needs it and when and how to take their pills. The report recommended written instructions to combat forgetfulness. But research from America suggests that even if old people are told what to do they may physically not be able to tell one pill from another and that it is important to watch out for this pitfall too.

Peter Hurd and Julia Blevins from Arizona University asked a group of old people to distinguish between pairs of pills.

They found that some old people couldn't tell the between green and blue pills or white and yellow ones.

The reason for the difficulty the Americans report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* is probably that the lens of the eye tends to yellow with age making vision less clear, creating problems with glare and making it hard to distinguish blues and greens.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

View from within the body

Last week the Prince of Wales opened a new scanner unit at the famous National Hospital in London.

The scanner, installed with the help of a grant of more than £1.1m from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, uses the latest imaging technique, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to look inside the human body.

The theory of NMR was refined by Oxford chemist Sir Rex Richards in the 1960s. But it is only in the last four years or so that doctors have really started to appreciate its medical uses.

NMR has several advantages over other imaging techniques though it's not likely to replace them altogether.

Boning up

When elderly people break their thigh bones many people assume that they must have lost their balance and tumbled down heavily on one leg. But the picture is far more complicated. For some years surgeons have recognized that it is not because elderly people fall that they break their thighs but, rather, that their thighs collapse.



Prince Charles: opened unit

One bonus is that NMR is totally non-invasive and can be used safely again and again on the same person. Instead of using X-rays which pass through the body, as even

What is even more controversial is why the bones break: bones do become thinner with age — the technical term is osteoporosis — but whether they also become more fragile is open to question.

Many patients who have broken their thigh bones, or femoral necks, do not have osteoporosis, while many patients with advanced osteoporosis have never broken a leg.

Mr Zdenek Ralis, orthopaedic surgeon at the Welsh National School of Medicine, has made a remarkable discovery by examining bone tissue microscopically. Thinning does not in itself seem to be a problem. It is the quality of bones that deteriorates; but why some people's bones lose their strength remains a mystery.

Mr Ralis has managed to reverse the process of deteriorating quality (and thickness) by giving a group of patients a combination of fluoride, calcium and vitamin D. Over a 10-month period for a group of 32 patients, 75 per cent of the patients' bones become thicker and stronger.

He now wants to find out

sophisticated CAT scanners do, NMR uses magnetic fields around the body to create a picture.

But the real advantage is that NMR can "see" soft tissues of the body, such as the brain or nerve cells, more easily and clearly than other scanners.

Also NMR can be "tuned" into different molecules in body tissues and used to follow the chemical reactions. At the National Hospital doctors will be using NMR to watch what happens to the nerve cells of people who develop multiple sclerosis. For the first time this will allow them to see precisely where the damage occurs and to find out if a treatment is working.

whether this improvement is permanent and whether to maintain strength the patients would have to take the treatment indefinitely.

Safe antihistamine
Antihistamines, the drugs people frequently take for hayfever and other allergic problems, usually come with a warning not to drive or use heavy machinery because the drugs are liable to make you sleepy.

It is a surprise therefore to find that until very recently no one has bothered to show scientifically that sedative antihistamines actually do impair driving skills.

But now doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham have done just that. And, more importantly, they have shown that one new antihistamine which doesn't make you sleepy is safe to take when driving.

Dr Tim Betts and his colleagues asked twelve experienced female drivers to take an antihistamine which causes drowsiness.

The drivers, they report in the

BMJ were aware that they felt drowsy and weren't driving as well after the drug but were unable to do anything about it.

On the antihistamine tritudan however, the women drove just as well as when they hadn't taken any antihistamine at all.

Tritudan is one of two antihistamines which don't cause sleepiness. It proved so popular with doctors last year that it is now available from pharmacists without a prescription.

Herpes relief

A clear example of how medical progress is made as much by serendipity as by painstaking research comes from a recent letter in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Treatment of patients with cancer is often so severe that their natural defence mechanisms collapse under the onslaught of drugs. As a result, many patients suffer from opportunistic infections like herpes which can be very painful and irritating.

Some antiviral preparation, similar to Herpid or Zovirax, have been used successfully, and one patient in Texas was given another drug — cimetidine — best known as an anti-stomach-ulcer drug but is also known to have immunostimulating properties. The drug was given to see if it could help restore the patient's own defence mechanism. To the surprise of the doctors, the patient's herpes zoster infection started to improve dramatically.

It is early days to say whether cimetidine will ever take a place in the normal treatment of herpes: it is a powerful drug and should not be taken casually. People who do suffer from cold sores or genital herpes should continue to use the anti-viral agents, like Herpid or Zovirax, as they are designed specifically for the job.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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THE TIMES DIARY

Spelling while Wales burns

As one with family connexions in a mid-Wales village rejoicing in the name of Penbontirhyddedau, I can well understand the difficulties of the Cwyd fire brigade in actually finding their way to a fire. There are, for example, some 400 sizable places in Wales that have names beginning with Llan, and quite a number of them fall within the territory of the Cwyd firemen. Then there are all the Abers, Ponts, Pentres and Bryns to contend with. The brigade has been finding that it requires good spelling, superb pronunciation and excellent map-reading to get its engines to the place when they are needed. Of course, as with everything else these days, the answer lies in computers. The Cwyd firemen are to have a new command and control system which, through the use of microprocessors, will give headquarters and 18 fire stations an instant fix on all those tongue-twisting names. At £300,000, the equipment doesn't seem cheap, but at least it will stop the land of their fathers burning down before they can find it.

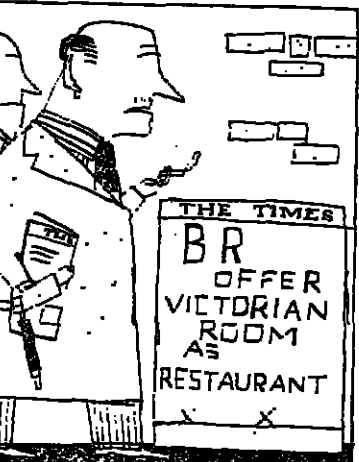
Write and wrong

Anyone who thought a circulation war in Fleet Street could be nothing but a good deal for newspaper readers would have reckoned without the *Daily Express*. Express Newspapers has just been ticked off by the advertising authorities for making exaggerated and inaccurate claims for no fewer than three of its recent editorial offers, making a total of six complaints upheld against the group in the past year. In one of the new cases the *Daily Express*, in its "Millionaires Club" promotion, offered £1 discounts on National Express luxury coach services without warning people that to take advantage of the offer they had to pay a £2 supplement on the ordinary fare. Spending £2 to save £1 is no way to become a millionaire. The other cases involved exaggerated claims for low-power electric space heaters, which complainants said would give no more heat than an ordinary light bulb, and slippers described as having cosy sheepskin inners which proved to be lined with man-made fibre. What was it that people used to say about not believing what you read in the papers?

Diplomaloo

The state of the lavatories at the ICA in The Mall, exclusively reported in this column, seems to have captured the sympathy of the nation. Letters and phone calls have been coming in to PHS daily, and now I have been privileged to see one of the designs for a new loo to be submitted to *own* magazine, which is running a competition for the convenience of the ICA. Brenda Innes, of Bromley, has designed a circular, stainless steel, unisex lavatory and washroom which, she says, could be easily mass-produced and would probably be cheaper than the French-style superloo now appearing on London streets. Smaller than the building-site Portaloos, the Innes model is suitable for outside or indoor use, and, seeing that it is intended for the ICA, could be decorated with posters. There must be something about it: the design helped Brenda to get an Open University degree.

BARRY FANTONI



Along, no doubt, with the Victorian ham sandwiches

Succession story

Candidates for succession to Moss Evans as head of the country's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers', are keeping their eyes skinned for possible late entrants in the race. Their anxiety stems from the last election, in 1977, which Evans won. An outsider then was an ordinary union member named D. Thatcher who, although he came bottom of the poll, amassed a healthy 6,000 votes. T&GWU cynics believe Thatcher supporters thought they were voting for the husband of a future prime minister.

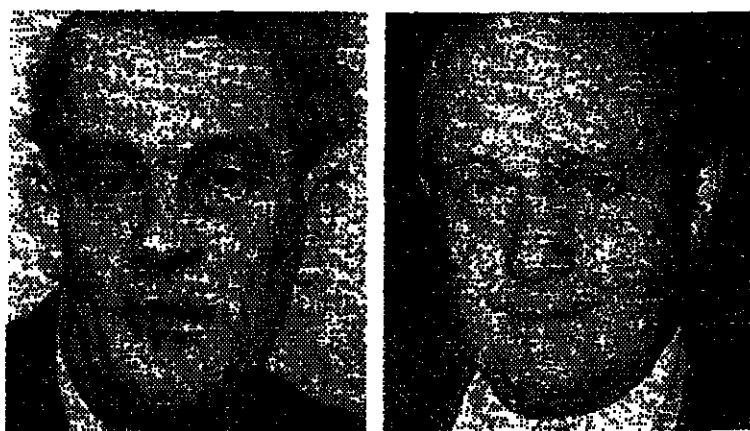
Out of touch

The spirited defence put up by British Telecom against charges of inefficiency in a recent *Rich* report cuts no ice with the International Institute of Communications. That worthy body - set up by telecommunications companies such as NTT and Japan and America's AT&T for the exchange of technology and discussion of policy - recently moved 100 yards to new offices in Tavistock House, London. Despite early warning of the move to the relevant authorities, the institute still has not a single working telephone or Telex and relies on the postman for contact with the outside world. One of the most active members of IIC is British Telecom.

PHS

The post-mortem body shop

Bernard Levin: the way we die now



Tam Dalyell, left, and Sir John Biggs-Davison: surprising advocates of transplant legislation

There is something exquisitely symmetrical in the fact that, while debate rages over the question of changing the method by which trade union members contribute to Labour Party funds from "contracting out" to "contracting in", Parliament should have discussed a proposal to change the method by which the organs of dead people are made available for transplant from "contracting in" to "contracting out". My own trade union has no political levy, so I am not directly affected by the trade union question; on the other hand, my own kidneys have been with me for a long time now, and before I am willing to contract them in, out or sideways I would like not only to examine the existing and proposed safeguards against my bits and pieces being subjected to a process of transplant *inter vivos* rather than *post mortem*, but also to think that, before legislating for the change, Parliament might rise to a level of debate considerably higher than it did earlier this week.

What is surprising is that the leading advocates of the change were Sir John Biggs-Davison and Mr Tam Dalyell. Sir John has shown himself to be a man who thinks much and deeply about ethical problems, presumably through his religious convictions, while as for Mr Dalyell, he may be barmy (come, come, Levin, you were not wont to be so mealy-mouthed - he is barmy), but however irritating his obsessions may be, they have always been motivated by moral principles; his obsession with the Belgians, after all, was derived not from a thrifty horror at the thought of all that irrecoverable scrap metal but from a different kind of horror at the thought of all those irrecoverable human beings.

Yet they both spoke as though the question of what is, or should be, done with the bodies of the lately dead were of little more moment than that of what should be done with hair cut off at the barber's.

It is, of course, possible to take that view, and it is clear that many in our society today do take it. It is even more clear that ours is the first era in which it would have been taken by more than a very few, who would greatly have astonished their fellows. When we are dead, the argument runs, we have no more use for our bodies; if we have souls, they are independent of the earthly clay in which they are

temporarily housed, and the clay itself, once the breath is out of it, might as well be recycled in the interests of those who need it. What is wrong with that?

First, and most obvious, there is the double problem of the safe-keeping and of what I have called, when discussing euthanasia, the Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint. The debate over the definition of death is by no means concluded, and it is hard to see how it ever will be, yet until we can say "this man is dead" with a certainty that is beyond even semantic dispute (let alone beyond the possibility that he may sit up and say "Oh, no, I'm not") the safeguards will always remain beneath a cloud, however small, of doubt. This is not just a matter of a mistake by the doctors: it concerns the very nature and meaning of death, and the fact that modern medical science can ensure that patients may remain in *articulo mortis* for months on end makes the importance of that nature and meaning greater, not less.

Now for the Altered Standpoint. Some of my best friends are doctors, and as far as I know very few of them are practising vampires. I do not envisage, should the controls on transplants be weakened, a sudden rush of ghouls in white coats to cut the hearts out of living bodies like so many Aztec priests. (Mind you, Ferdinand Sauerbruch was one of the greatest surgeons of modern times, but he ended mad as a hatter in a welter of butchery like a horror-film, protected by his august reputation.) But difficult as it is for

any man to say how he will behave in conditions he knows about, it is far more so for any of us to say how we would behave in conditions of which at present we have no experience. I do not believe that advocates of the legalization of euthanasia, and especially doctors who advocate it, would feel anything but revulsion and contempt at the suggestion that, were euthanasia available, they might start to see in a sinister light those incurably ill or senile whose lives are nothing but a misery to themselves as well as to others. But that is the problem about altering standpoints: the view from the new one cannot be predicted, and it may contain sights previously undreamt of except in nightmares. And as with euthanasia, so with transplants: we simply do not know what an accident victim with extensive and irreversible brain damage will look like on the operating table when the attitude to transplants has been reversed in the manner proposed in Parliament. *Facilis descensus Averna.*

But that leaves the most important aspect of what has been proposed. It was argued on all hands that, since the number of those making a direct commitment to the medical use of their bodies (by signing, and carrying a "kidney card") is insufficient for those whose lives could be saved or prolonged by such use, a new method of increasing the number of bodies available must be introduced. But if the MPs had been talking about increasing the production of sugar-beet by providing low-interest loans

for farmers willing to change the balance of their crops they could hardly have shown themselves more oblivious to the colossal weight that all peoples have always given to reverence for the dead.

The MPs did take in to account the grief of the abruptly bereaved, but only in terms of the difficulty or embarrassment of asking them for permission to extract the tastiest morsels from the remains of their loved ones: nobody stopped to think that that difficulty and embarrassment are directly connected with the instinctive horror so many people feel at the thought of the offhand disposal of a body they once loved. Let alone that the instinctive horror is grounded in something deeper than did ever plummet sound. "There is evidence," said the Minister, "that people are strongly opposed to an opting out system. There is indeed: about 30,000 years of such evidence, and it is not to be dismissed without consideration of what it must mean for the nature of human beings and their most important beliefs."

There was another example of lack of imagination among the MPs who debated this subject. Many people, it was pointed out, do not bother to carry a kidney-card, even though they would have no objection to their bodies being used, because they are unable to envisage their abrupt death: "It is a human failing," said Mr Dalyell, "to imagine that other people are going to be killed, not oneself."

A human failing? That is no failing: it is an instinct that enshrines one of the most glorious truths about mankind, which is that our faces are set towards the sun of life, not the darkness of death. We do not go about the streets wondering whether we are going to be run over, though we know the figures for road accidents; even the soldier in battle does not believe that the next bullet has his number on it.

This life force is inseparably bound up with the feeling that a dead body must be handled with care, precisely because it once contained life. Those who think of dead bodies as no more than a repository of spare parts, like a car-breaker's yard, have failed to gauge the strength of that feeling and, in their very proper zeal for helping those whose suffering could be alleviated if more of their fellows would assign their bodies for alleviation, have made a profound mistake.



A US soldier stands guard over Cuban prisoners at Point Salinas airstrip after the invasion

Secret steps that led to invasion

Four months after US troops moved into Grenada, Winston Churchill MP reassesses the island's dilemma

the case: "Time was all important and we had no choice but to call upon those already in the area who were able to respond swiftly to our request." However, as he explained, he did not even make any direct appeal to the Americans in the two weeks between the arrest of the prime minister and the American landings which took place on Tuesday, October 25. All his communications were with other Caribbean leaders.

"East German technicians had been put in to control the central telephone exchange and it was impossible to make direct-dial calls outside the island, although I could receive calls direct from overseas", Sir Paul explained. "For this reason I had to be very guarded in what I said and had to go through two or even three other people, in order to get the person I wished to speak to to call me." In this way Sir Paul was able to keep in touch with other Caribbean leaders, including Tom Adams, Premier of Barbados, and Mrs Eugenia Charles of Dominica, who played the key role in conveying Sir Paul's guarded, but none the less, urgent request for help to President Reagan.

But if Sir Paul Scoon did not invite Britain to participate in the liberation of the island, it is equally clear that Tom Adams, the prime

minister of Barbados, did. On the Friday, October 21, and again in the course of the weekend, he requested through Giles Bullard, our newly-arrived High Commissioner in Bridgetown, British participation in the invasion which was already in preparation, and specifically, the dispatch of an SAS team to rescue the governor-general, "I thought it would be appropriate if Her Majesty's representative on the island were to be safeguarded by British forces", the prime minister observed when I met him on Barbados. "We hoped it might be possible", he added, "for those British forces already in the area, namely the Harriers in Belize and the Royal Navy ships in the Caribbean to participate as well. My sole regret is that I did not speak to Mrs Thatcher personally on the telephone. Unfortunately there was no secure telephone link available. When, by the Monday, the American military realized that the operation would be exclusively theirs, they were delighted."

The first Sir Paul Scoon knew of the invasion being actually under way was on the Tuesday morning the US forces attacked the Cuban positions around Point Salinas. The roar of several low, low-flying planes was heard overhead in the darkness. Sir Paul took me out on to

the terrace of Government House, which commands a panoramic view over St George's, the new Point Salinas airport and the southern part of the island, whose volcanic hills covered in lush tropical vegetation plunge down to the silver sand and turquoise waters of the Caribbean. Gesturing out towards Point Salinas he recalled: "A great deal of ground-fire and anti-aircraft fire seemed to be directed at the American transport planes which were firing back. At dawn, a large helicopter arrived over Government House and attempted to land on the tennis court, but the overhang of the trees was too great and the helicopter's rotors too large for it to do so."

It is clear that the helicopter was intended to scoop up Sir Paul and his family and evacuate them to safety. As it was, the best that could be done was for a dozen American soldiers, armed only with light weapons and limited ammunition, to be dropped down a rope to the grounds of Government House where their presence immediately attracted the attention of two armoured personnel-carriers of the Grenadian PRA, which proceeded to subject Government House and the surrounding area to periodic bursts of cannon fire. The governor-general and his family took refuge in the basement while the small American detachment did their best to protect them, though they lacked weapons heavy enough to knock out the armoured vehicles. It was not until dawn the next day, after a delay of 24 hours during which the lives of Sir Paul and his family were in considerable peril, that they could be evacuated from the grounds of Government House and were able to meet up with an advancing American column.

In the wake of events in Grenada, Tom Adams believes the time has come for the nations of the eastern Caribbean to consider recreating, in some form at least, a federation of the West Indies, in which would be established joint army, police and internal security services - possibly backed by British and US naval forces and intelligence in the background - to safeguard the region from subversion or outside attack in the future.

The author is Conservative MP for Davyhulme



Sir Paul Scoon, left, whose position was perilous, and Tom Adams, who asked for the SAS

David Watt

Who knows what Chernenko thinks

My most vivid memory of the philosopher Bertrand Russell is of a small gathering in Oxford, more than 30 years ago, when he was asked by some smart arse what he, a lifelong atheist, would say to God if he discovered in the after life that He existed. The sage considered the matter with care, and apparently some distaste, for a moment or two and then replied in his inimitably pinched, aristocratic tones: "I should say to Him, 'You're a very shabby fellow: you didn't give us enough evidence'."

This utterance floated into my mind on Tuesday morning when I saw, side by side, the main headlines of *The Times* and *The Guardian*. This paper proclaimed: "Chernenko takes over with firm pledge on 'science'". Its contemporary declared: "Hopes of West are dashed by Chernenko". I mention this discrepancy not to poke fun at the distinguished correspondents over whose names these labels appeared. The point is simply that where the Soviet Union is concerned we usually do not have the wherewithal to provide even the most intelligent and experienced observers with an unchallengeable view.

The shabby Chernenko, like God, has played it safe and has carefully produced something for everyone in his initial pronouncements - a few sentences about imperialist aggression and war-mongering on the one hand and a few about his desire to follow in the steps of the peace-loving Mr Andropov on the other. From this, of course, absolutely nothing can be deduced - not even the strictly limited presumption that Chernenko is the kind of man who plays things safe. (What else would even the most daring Soviet leader have done under the circumstances?)

The truth is that nearly everything that has been written in the past week on this subject is speculation. The confident assertions - to take some of the most obvious examples - that Chernenko is a "stop-gap", that he is a cautious dove, that he is a cautious hawk, that he is a very dull dog, that Gromyko will call the shots in foreign policy anyway, are not entirely baseless.

The new leader's age, his reputation, his past performances all provide some limited ground for this sort of guesswork; but at the end of the day, guesswork is still what it is. After all, Chernenko is younger than President Reagan who, whatever else he may be, is no stop-gap, a lot younger than was Pope John XXIII when he shook another calving organization to its foundations. The fact that he was an apparently docile client, and indeed creation, of Brezhnev's may be a sign that he is irremediably second rate. But it may, for all we know, conceal the existence of a formidably strong and self-disciplined character who knew how to bide his time. Such things have been known before. Khrushchev, under Stalin, was a comic bit-player who emerged in his true colours only after the tyrant's death and at a very late stage in his own career.

Likewise it is far too early to say what the Chernenko foreign policy is going to be: for that matter it is too early to exert any serious influence upon it. There is, so far as I know, no concrete evidence that ties Chernenko in more than the most temporary and pragmatic fashion to Brezhnev's old enthusiasm for détente. Nor do we know how much he owes to the military - who passed him over in favour of Andropov last time round.

It is possible that they exacted some important reassurances from him before they changed their minds

on this occasion; but perhaps they simply accepted him as the least of the available evils. All is uncertain. But in any case, whatever Chernenko's private views or collective inhibitions may be, the new regime cannot embark on a new course without a quite prolonged period of stocktaking - and this process cannot be more than highly provisional until it is safe to bet on who the next president of the United States is going to be. In other words, before Ronald Reagan is seen to go in person rather than sending the Foreign Secretary on his own, could

The credibility of the olive branch was damaged

not expect to do any serious business at such a time. She would also be a fool if she supposed that her very presence would send a "message" to Chernenko that might unlock the path to negotiations at a later date when other more direct approaches would not. No, the real audience for these dramatic gestures is not in Moscow but in British public opinion. The British, like other western governments, is reflecting a clamorous desire for better East-West relations and is doing its best to be seen by its electors in a moderate and relatively amenable posture via a visit the Soviet Union - without really knowing where this may lead in practice, or when.

Put in this way, this may sound an undignified and even dishonest kind of operation. But before one leaps to criticize, it is necessary to remember that one of the most difficult and important tasks facing west European politicians at present is to maintain a stance on East-West matters that the ordinary voter can support with some enthusiasm. This has not been easy in the past 18 months because of the row over the cruise missiles. Nato's famous two-track decision (negotiate with the Russians and prepare to deploy the missiles if negotiations fail) was supposed to satisfy everybody because, like the eagle on the seal of the United States, it had an olive branch in one hand and arrows in the other.

Unfortunately, thanks to the rhetoric, and to some extent the policies, of the Reagan administration, the credibility of the olive branch was damaged, and with it the traditional bipartisan support for defence expenditure and even for Nato itself.

It may seem paradoxical to justify armament by offering disarmament, but to the practical politician it looks perfectly sensible - and incidentally not at all dishonest since disarmament, however difficult and unlikely it may be to achieve, is a perfectly genuine desire. The long and short of it is that Mrs Thatcher was right to go to Moscow, for her own good reasons, she will be wrong if she imagines that she has had much effect on the Russians; and she will be mad if she thinks that she or anyone else yet has the foggiest idea whether Mr Chernenko has a mind of his own, still less what is going on inside it.

Philip Howard

Love's labour's well and truly lost

Among other things, Shakespeare was a splendid hack in a hurry. He never blotted out a line. It is not necessary to go as far as envious Ben Jonson, and observe: "Would he had blotted a thousand." But there is a certain *Schadenfreude* for the rest of us when the Bard blunders, and should have blotted.

One of his most famous bloomers is the stage direction in *The Winter's Tale*: "Bohemia. A desert country near the sea." For generations odious swots in the front row have taken pleasure in waving their hands in the air, and saying, "Please Sir, Bohemia is nowhere near the sea, being entirely surrounded by land." That is the classic example of an anchorman, the error of putting an action, scene, or character in a place where it does not belong. It is an encouragement to lesser backs, when they commit some blunder in print, and triumphant or outraged letters flood in pointing it out, to remember that even Shakespeare nodded. Good stuff, of course. Sweet Swan of Avon. You could say: "The stream of Time, which is continually washing the dissoluble fabric of our poets, passes without injury by the adamant of Shakespeare." But the lad was unsound on the geography of Bohemia.

Are we quite sure of this? I was until the other day, when I learned Richmond Herald, who also enjoys the backwoods and byways of history, raised the matter. Richmond points out that Premysl Ottocav of Bohemia (1233-1278) married Margareta, daughter and ultimately heiress of Leopold VI (Babenberg), Margrave of Austria. Premysl first of all occupied Austria and Styria, and then briefly added Carinthia and Carniola, to his thirteenth century, the Kingdom of Bohemia did reach the Adriatic, and could be accurately described as a Country near the Sea.

Premysl is the king after whom Konigsberg, in what was to become Prussia, was named. His seaside connexion did not last. He was killed in battle by the Hapsburgs in 1278, and that established their dynasty in Austria. Bohemia reverted to its original land-locked state.

I very much doubt whether Shakespeare knew anything about this, even though the nineteenth-century schoolmaster at Stratford used to point out his desk to credulous visitors, and say: "William was a studious lad; and selected that corner of the room so that he might not be disturbed by the other boys."

In any case, it doesn't matter. The works of Shakespeare are not textbooks of geography or history. Bohemia is located not on the map, but, like Venice of the Merchant, Athens of the *Dream*, Elsinore, and the other places, in the wild country of the poet's imagination.

The classic anecdote of treating Shakespeare as an authority on what he was not concerns the First Duke of Marlborough. He was talking to Bishop Burnet, the historian, and surprised him by advancing astronomical, mathematical, and other strange matters of fact. The bishop, not the most searching of scholars, whose *History of his own Times* was described by Johnson as mere chit-chat, was astonished. He asked Marlborough where he had picked up his novel version of history. The duke, equally surprised on his side to be asked that question by so knowing a man in history as the bishop, replied: "Why, don't you remember? It is the only English history of those that I ever read, in Shakespeare's plays."

Maybe his history was shaky in parts. We are going to revise his geography marks from gamma to beta minus. But he's more fun to read than history or geography.

A look at P & O's new £100m luxury cruise liner which will be "floated out" today at Wartsila's covered shipyard in Helsinki. Delivery is due in October.

Royal Princess

A SPECIAL REPORT

JUST as the Princess of Wales is seen by many as a symbol of youthful resurgence in British public life, so the brilliant new P & O liner which will be named after her at the launch next November can be seen as a sign of resurgence of British cruising.

Britain invented cruising: more from necessity than choice. No other country in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had such a scatter of far-flung colonies, and such a huge fleet of passenger and cargo liners to transfer people and goods between them.

Most of these trades - to India and China, Australia and New Zealand, the Middle East, Africa, and South and North America - were seasonal, some highly so, and cruising evolved as an alternative source of employment when the liners were not needed for trade.

After the last war cargo became more and more separated into specialised cargo ships - but at the same time aircraft were making ever-greater inroads into passenger traffic on the old world routes, and liners concentrated more and more on that aspect of their business that had formerly been a stopgap.

The real trauma came in the early 1960s when P & O's Canberra and Oriana, and Cunard's QE2 were built.

All three ships were re-designed during planning, and ended much more cruise-ships than they began. But for many years after that P & O hesitated to take the ultimate step to a 100 per cent cruise ship with no line voyage commitments whatever.

This was a market developed primarily by those inspired shipping entrepreneurs, the Norwegians, who built a score or more of modest custom-built cruise ships, mostly around 20,000 tons for about 600 passengers, through which the Caribbean cruise market based in Miami really took off in the 1960s and 1970s.

Cunard jumped in with their Countess and Princess, but P & O, still Britain's (and indeed the world's) leading cruise line, continued to ponder, content in the 1970s to buy time by buying existing ships and with them an established foothold in the Californian market.

Though P & O cruising had been consistently profitable, the

profits were never big enough to seem until 1982, to justify the massive cost of a big new cruise ship like the Royal Princess. Capital costs alone, at more than £100m, require earnings of about £60,000 a day to service; and operating costs - pay for 600 staff, fuel, repairs and maintenance, insurance, food and drink, port charges, etc - come to substantially more.

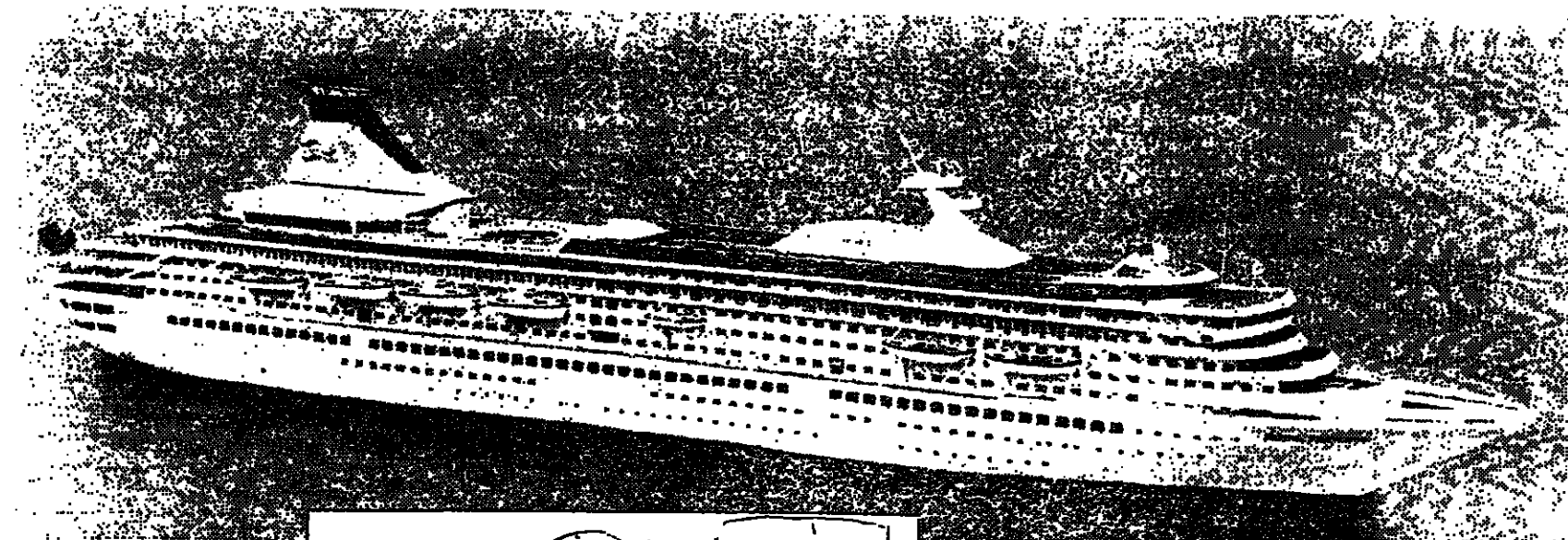
What this adds up to is a charge of around £200 a day per passenger to make a viable proposition on what is (unusually among commercial projects) highly labour - as well as highly capital intensive.

Some 20 million people in the US can afford to pay those kind of prices for a holiday, researchers found, of whom some four million are ready and willing to do so on a Sea Princess cruise. As P & O's three existing California-based ships carry only about 100,000 passengers a year the scope is clearly considerable - provided Royal Princess offers what the Americans want. What is that?

The prime requirements is top-class accommodation and service; and here Royal Princess clearly scores with for the first time on any ship every cabin offering a sea view. A cabin with a porthole (these days a picture window) has always been highly in demand but in former days, when passengers had to share the hull with cargo, with bigger engines than today, and with bulkier equipment and services, only a minority of passengers were able to get it. For this they paid premium rates.

Two earlier ways of trying to give inside cabins a glimpse of daylight and the sea were the "Bibby" cabin which extended a narrow arm out to the ship's side, often ending in a small porthole and a washbasin; and the greatly improved Canberra "courtyard" cabin, where a batch of six cabins look out on to a shared courtyard with a large sea view.

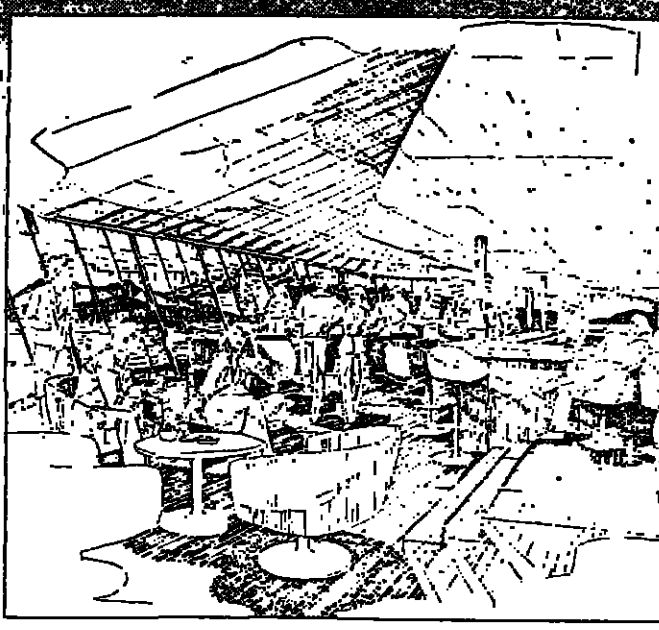
In the Royal Princess all such devices are swept in favour of a panoramic view of the sea, sky, and ports of call from every cabin, in many cases from its own private verandah. It should be enormously popular, and is backed up with other cabin features designed specially for the US market.



A model of the Royal Princess in which every cabin has a sea view, and left, one of the lounges. Right, Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P & O, who built the liner.

ROYAL PRINCESS SPECIFICATIONS

Builder: Wartsila Helsinki
Flag: British
Classification: Lloyds
Length (max): 232 metres
Breadth (moulded): 29.2 metres
Draught (dw): 7.8 metre
Speed: 22 knots
Passengers: 1,200
Passenger cabins: 600
Crew: 500 (approx)
Gross tonnage: 40,000
Decks: Ten
Intended service: Worldwide



● Every cabin will have 24-hour service (mainly English or Mexican stewards); full-size bathroom with tub-bath as the Americans call it; sophisticated furnishings of the kind to be found in a luxury Californian home - soft colours, deep-pile carpet, individual works of art, classical and modern; and, needless to say, individual air-conditioning and multi-channel TV with video.

● Second, people want interesting places to visit, and plenty of them. Not for the American vacationer the P&O "posh" pattern of old, with days or weeks of restful idleness at sea, punctuated only occasionally with time in port. They want to see somewhere different every day. Royal Princess will provide such excitement for much of the year in Alaska (with fly-cruises via Vancouver) whose attractions include Skagway where the Gold Rush started, Juneau the state capital, and Sitka, the old Russian capital; at other times south of California at Acapulco, and such rapidly expanding resorts as Mazatlan,

Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas; or yet again on long trips to Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan.

● Third, the American vacationer wants entertaining - with top-class Broadway style shows. This Royal Princess will provide together with Las Vegas-type gambling, dancing (ballroom and disco), classical music, lectures and indoor activities of all kinds.

● Fourth, top-class eating; and this will be Italian-style on the Royal Princess, with international cuisine featuring exotic catering - carvery and flambee trolleys - provided in the main by Italian chefs and waiters.

● Fifth, something of an obsession in the US at the moment: people want to return

home fit and rested rather than raddled by over-indulgence; and to help them Royal Princess will have a huge deck area for lounging in the sun and gazing at the sea; four swimming pools and two jacuzzis; and a comprehensive health centre. Instead of the huge steam turbines which account for a quarter of Canberra's operating costs, Royal Princess will have four small diesels spending only five per cent and providing a high degree of control and flexibility of operation.

Nothing that human foresight can provide to make Royal Princess a success has been forgotten. All she needs now is what every ship needs - Good Luck!

Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

The pride and pleasure

Jeffrey Sterling, a leading figure in the property world, became chairman of P & O last November at the height of the take-over battle with Cunard-Trafalgar House; presumably because the P & O board thought him the best man to fight off the formidable entrepreneur, but also a man of culture and compassion: he is chairman of the Royal Ballet School and vice chairman of Motability, which helps the disabled. Here he talks to Michael Bailey, our Transport Editor.

Michael Bailey: Why did you become Chairman of P & O?
Jeffrey Sterling: Because I was asked. I had gained an insight into the group as a non-executive director. It is a fascinating company not only because of its standing and tradition but also because of its spread of operations. Its businesses range from virtually all forms of surface transport to the Bovis housebuilding and construction companies, and its international base adds not only an interesting complexity but also an immediate dimension of opportunity. A unique combination - history and opportunity.

MB: How do you see the prospect?

JS: One must beware of oversimplification. I believe our future will be as every bit exciting as our past. We have

already embarked upon the process of accelerating into this decade and, strategically, the latter half of this century. P&O, like any other enterprise, is about people - their quality, their attitudes, their motivations. There is a will to succeed in P&O at all levels; a positive response to new ideas. As chairman I see the key to the future as motivation; surely that must be a priority of every manager.

P&O with its national and international spread of businesses is poised and well-balanced. It has weathered massive recession in shipping and done so successfully. That company ethos I referred to is the engine, as it were, of its development and motivation is the fuel.

If we could identify future economic trends and international market movements we would have no problems. We can't. However, what we can do is make informed judgments about possible trends and be thoroughly prepared to move with them.

The shipping industry is a classic example of that situation. Relatively large, long term capital investments that are very sensitive to world trade cycles. An added complexity is that the industry itself is multifaceted. The rolling recession of the 1970s is evidence of that. Cargo liner trades, passenger

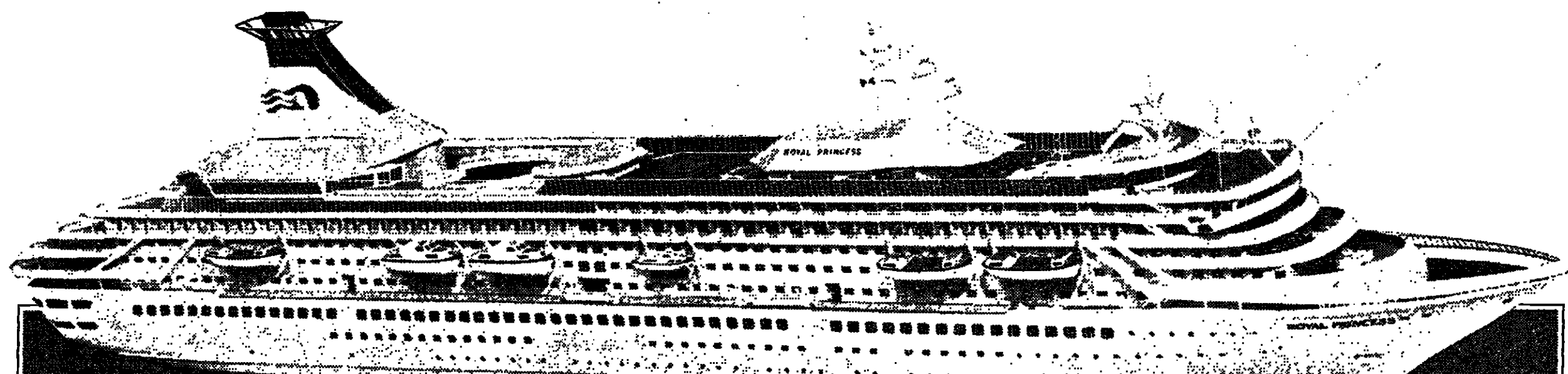
trades, the gas trades all had their own cycles. There was no simultaneity. Thus timing becomes crucial.

MB: Has cruising a good future? Is Royal Princess a good investment?

JS: First cruising. In international terms it is a growth market, very much part of the leisure industry. The north American sector is massive and contains a big potential for growth. We have, in Princess Cruises, a well established market position in that area; a fleet of three cruise ships - Royal Princess will make it four.

It is a very competitive market place. Remember, the leisure market is governed by discretionary spending. Growth relies upon disposable income. We operate at the top end of that market. Thus product design, quality and service are essentially important to us. I believe a company should concentrate on what it is good at - P&O is unequalled at running ships and taking care of people.

As a cruise operator we are world leaders in all three of our main markets - Europe, USA and Australia. P&O ships like Sea Princess, Canberra and Oriana are household names synonymous with luxury and world travel.



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Why the cruisers keep on coming back

The average cost of a package holiday in the Mediterranean to the British holidaymaker is £175-£250. The average cost of a motor holiday in Europe for a family of four (two adults and two children) whether packaged or not is about £300. The average cost of a cruise is £1000-£1200. A cruise costs about five times as much as a holiday in a beach hotel, and that no doubt accounts for the small share of the holiday market occupied by cruising.

Of some fourteen million Britons who will take a holiday abroad this year, under 100,000 will cruise. About half the total will take package holidays of one sort or another and about twelve million will holiday in Europe via the car ferries.

Yet if cruising attracts a necessarily small clientele it is a devoted one. Market research shows that those who take a cruise keep on doing it, not every year but once every so often.

Package holidays generally attract little or no brand loyalty. Holidaymakers who were particularly pleased with Thomas Cook or Thomson one year will doubtless look to them first the following year; but generally the package holiday-maker feels free to shop around almost every year, as to both operator and type of holiday.

That is not the case with cruising. Some 25-35 per cent of the cruise passengers have made a voyage previously, and in the case of P&O this rises to 60 per cent - an amazing degree of brand loyalty.

Why do they do it? Cunard in their Atlantic advertisements used to say that "getting there is half the fun." In other words, if you must go to New York (or Europe) why not enjoy the journey as much as the destination? Take your wife, be pampered for five days in elegant surroundings among

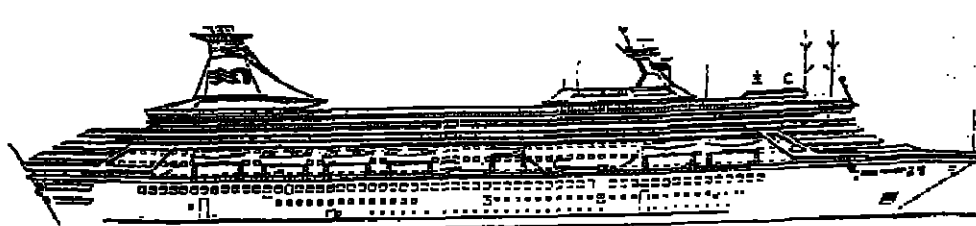
people who, like yourself, enjoy a taste of luxury living.

But the Atlantic is not always kind, and the jet does it so much faster. By the 1970s P&O's slogan "The holiday that has everything" was more apposite. Ships had ceased, with a few very minor exceptions, to offer transportation, and had become a part of the leisure market.

They did so initially largely to those who had enjoyed sea voyages in their previous role - former colonialists, top businessmen and entrepreneurs: people who liked being waited on in an exclusive atmosphere; an atmosphere that excluded the package holiday crowds.

For a time cruising went down market, and tried to attract the holiday camper with a kind of "knees up Mother Brown" atmosphere. But it was not a success - partly because providing cruises is an inherently costly business, and it was impossible to get package cruises down to a price the market would stand and still make a profit.

So cruising resumed its place at the head of the holiday



What it costs to go cruising

Cruises from UK ports

£300 four days Cunard QE2
£400 CTC (Russian) 14 days in low-rated cabin
£500 CTC 15-day cruise
£600 CTC 14-day better grade cabin
£700 8-day QE2
£800 14-day CTC
£1,000 12-day QE2
£1,100 15-day Cunard
£1,100 15-day Royal Viking Line
£1,700 38-day Polish Ocean Lines; 15-day Royal Viking
£2,600 26-day P & O

Fly-cruise from UK

£400 7-day Chandris or Siosa
£500 7-day Vacationer
£800 7-day Intercruise La Palma or ten-day Costa
£1,000 13-day CTC, or P & O
£1,100 14-day P & O
£1,400 14-day Cunard, Royal Viking

Caribbean Fly-cruise
£700 9-day Bahamas Cruise Lines
£900 9-day Norwegian Caribbean
£1,000 9-day Royal Caribbean
£1,400 15-day Cunard
£1,400 15-day Cunard

or converted cruise-ships to arrive on the international market this year and last, and the massive investment involved suggests a confidence by the operators that there is a lasting future for it.

The attempt to attract more custom by going down market has been abandoned. But there is a definite trend towards attracting the young and fancy-free especially in the United States where all manner of cut-price incentives are available to woo the floating holiday voter to make a last-minute decision to take a cruise and make sure the ships sail reasonably full.

Cruising remains an expensive holiday, as the accompanying table shows. But provided operators keep the standards high there should be a huge market to be tapped as both wealth and leisure continue to increase.

Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

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Chief difference with traditional lifeboats is that those of the Royal Princess will have enclosed fore and aft sections and be equipped with portable canopies for the centre. Two of the boats are fitted with British-made Marconi radio stations.

The ship's communications system is to be the Mascot 2000 of STC International Marine, said to be the only British satellite communications terminal approved by the International Maritime Satellite Organization.

STC's system, designed, developed and produced at the company's plant at Mitcham, Surrey, provides two-way voice, telex, facsimile and data transmission. The ship's main radio station will incorporate a new solid state transmitter/receiver which, said STC, is the first of its type to be used at sea.

Another advanced STC product is the automatic direction finder controlled by micro processor, which analyses radio direction beacon signals and gives an immediate longitude/latitude position. In total the STC contracts are worth £110,000.

Tyneside, one of Britain's

traditional but depressed shipbuilding areas, may not be building the Royal Princess but at least it is being thrown a few crumbs in the form of the £113,000 contract for laminates which have been won by Formica at North Shields.

Mann Kalaste, the fabrication subsidiary of Taivateso, Formica's Finnish distributor, is making the furniture and has used the mahogany or teak-look laminate on the state room dressing tables, writing desks, wardrobes, TV shelves, window pelmets and bedheads.

Royal Princess passengers will also walk on, eat from, sleep on and wash under British equipment.

Tankard Carpets of Bradford and BVM of Kilmarnock have provided the floor coverings for the ship's cabins and public areas. The high grade Wilton was specified for Tankard which is producing a 9ft wide broadloom with 90per cent of the wool coming from English sheep.

BVM's order is for 9,000 square metres of mostly tufted broadloom carpet.

Parkin Silversmiths of Sheffield, with 275 years of cutlery-making experience, will supply

40,000 pieces of restaurant silverware, while a similar number of tableware pieces will come from Steelite International of Stoke-on-Trent.

Charterweave, an Oxfordshire company, has won an order to provide 4,000 blankets most made from Merino wool, and Metex Industries of Croydon, Surrey, is producing 4,600 chrome plated bathroom fittings.

British expertise is cathodic protection for ships' hulls and is recognised with the use of Warilla of an automatic system from the Morgan Berkeley Marine division of Corintec of Winchester.

The Royal Princess contract is worth £7,500. The Corintec system involves the application of an electrical charge over the whole immersed surface of the hull. This eliminates corrosion and helps to prevent roughness thereby enabling the ship to maintain the minimum drag resistance.

In bad weather passengers should particularly appreciate the Gyrofin stabilizers produced by Sperry Marine Systems of Camberley, Surrey. Each fin weighs 77 tons, and has a 90 horsepower unit which provides 80 tonnes lift at 18 knots. This, says the company, should reduce the ship's roll up to 90 per cent.

Edward Townsend



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No room for nostalgia in this floating hotel

To the hardy British, brought up to believe they are members of a seafaring nation, sailors all and proud of generations of shipbuilding skills, the interior design of the Royal Princess will provoke, at best, incredulity.

The surprise will be heightened by the knowledge that this floating hotel is aimed not at mid-western America, with its image of staid conservatism, but at laid-back, fun loving west coasters.

P&O, on the other hand, know better. Nostalgia is out when it comes to Americans' choice of an ocean cruise. Creaking timbers, bunks, port holes and the like are all very well for the *Oregon Line* but not for today's big spending vacationers.

The Royal Princess, while plush, expensive, superbly comfortable and cosseting, will, nevertheless, reflect from the inside the bland sameness of the international hotel.

Apart from the gentle rolling of the ship - and most of the time even that should be undetectable thanks to the stabilisers - passengers (or perhaps they should be called residents) will have to remind themselves that they are at sea and not in one of those faceless, impersonal edifices of international tourism that can be found in capital cities around the world.

The sales brochure for the maiden voyage uses adjectives chosen, no doubt, to impress rather than entice. It is, says P&O, "the ship destined to become a legend"; various bits of it are described in the blurb as elegant, spacious, lavish, panoramic, gracious.

The ultra modern design in a ship that has a startling and unique lay-out, is the work of a Norwegian, Nial Eide, one of the world's most experienced cruise ship interior decorators. He scoffs at suggestions that the Royal Princess will reflect little that is nautical and stresses the overall aim to achieve a fashionable, quality image.

He reminds the traditionalist that the big Atlantic liners of the past had few interior indications of sea voyaging and were often equipped with heavy, overpowering furniture and fittings designed for houses. "Some of them were like cathedrals," he says.

"The product brief in this

case was to incorporate in the decor a West Coast image combined with good basic English and European cruise ship traditions."

The unusual configuration of the ship's facilities and the provision of up-to-date luxuries like two jacuzzis, clearly assisted in the achievement of an impression of up-market modernity.

All of the cabins on the Royal Princess are located outboard and have large picture windows, a bath with shower, television, refrigerator and "environmental control". A private balcony, a sort of mini personal deck, is provided for 152 of the more pricey cabins and staterooms.

The ship will have almost two acres of public deck - more, says P&O, than any other cruise ship afloat. The main deck extends the whole length and breadth of the ship. Here are located all the main meeting places, including a two-storey lounge and casino, with the middle section built between two promenades where there are a cafe, library, card room, shopping area, boutiques and children's play room. The restaurant is on the deck below.

To judge from the mock-ups and drawings, it would appear that the interior design will not be breathtaking. But the uncluttered simplicity of its lines and forms and its muted conservatism will undoubtedly appeal in its main market.

Getting the
feeling
on board
of executive
luxury

The cabins are decorated in pastel colours, a departure from the strong contrasts often adopted on European cruise ships, and there is a greater degree of colour coordination.

This appears to have been essential because of the strict requirement to use materials that are non-flammable "families", used, for cost reasons, throughout the ship and which restrict the designer's freedom.

Mr Eide was able, however, to use some real teak (although

it is only veneer) and brass, albeit for cosmetic purposes. And in the bathrooms, for example, the surfaces around the basins are all solid marble to give a feeling of exclusive luxury.

To give an "English" feel to the cabins, the beds are provided with skirts, which heightens the hotel look as well as diminishing any sense of ship's bunks. Mr Eide was also able to use considerable amounts of woollen textiles which, again, he hopes will soften the use of laminates and metals.

The spaciousness and calmness of a big hotel is further accentuated by the distribution throughout the ship of 175 large tubs containing almost 1,700 plants.

Another part of the design brief was to allow for optimum flexibility in the public areas. As Mr Eide puts it: "The idea is to start at 10 in the morning with a room for playing bingo and end up at night with a fashionable and beautiful show lounge."

Equally, the observation lounge, with its "nice, gentle" daytime aura, becomes, with the skilful use of lights, a heaving disco at night.

"There is nowhere else to go

on a ship so it is very important to create places for different moods without making it look cheap."

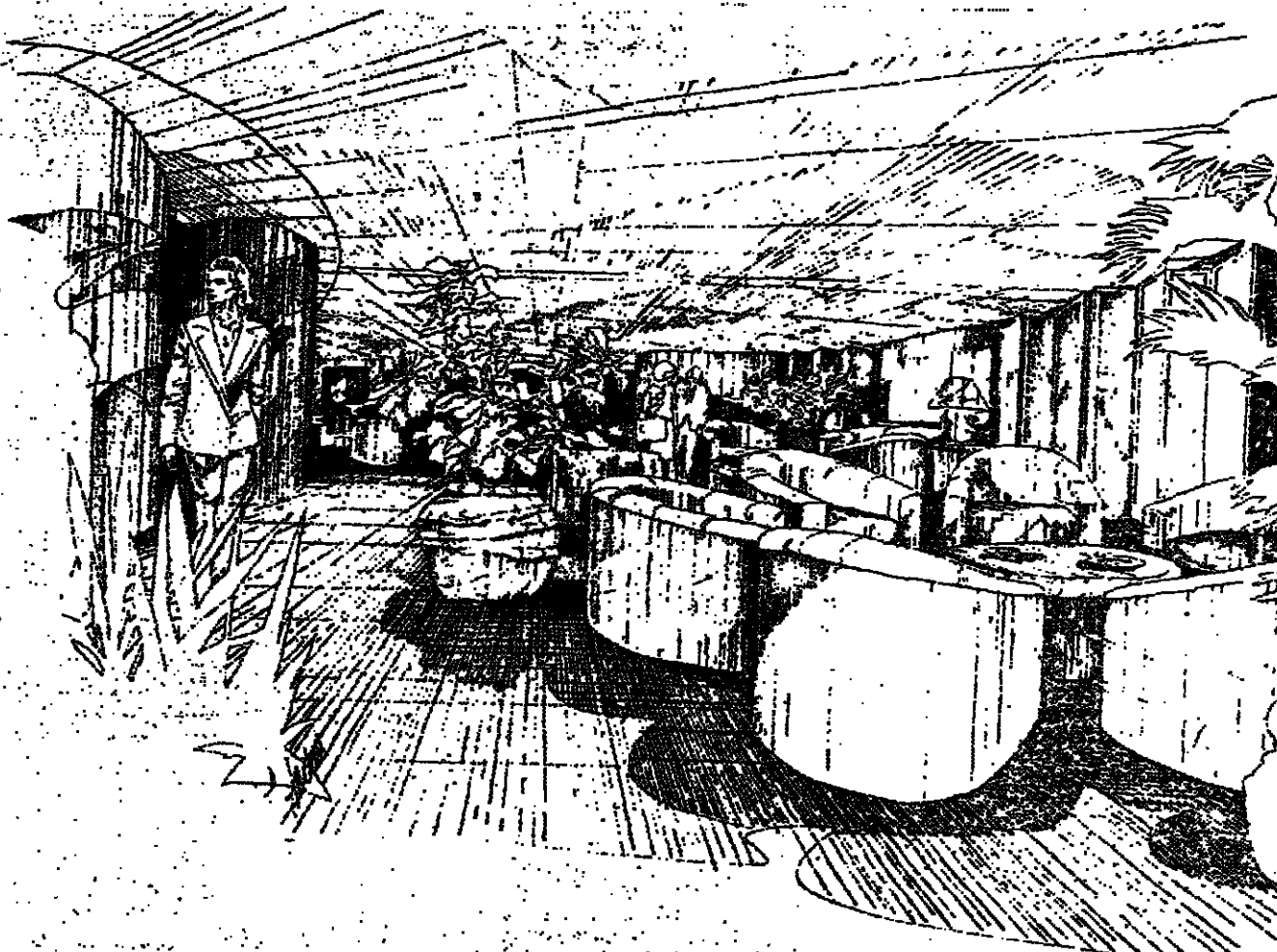
The main feature of the ship, on the main deck, is the central hall, designed by Mr Eide to be the principal meeting point, "a place through which people drift, like a hotel lounge or foyer."

It is built in two storeys with a central, circular opening and staircase leading down to the restaurant. In the centre is the ship's single externally-commissioned piece of sculpture, a spiral design by an English sculptor whose identity is being kept secret by P&O for unveiling as a marketing aid in the summer.

The pictures hung in the cabins and public areas have all been commissioned from English artists and are of modern abstract design. They were chosen after Mr Eide and his team had scoured a number of London art galleries.

Seascapes and pictures of stately sailing clippers or the liners of the past were deliberately rejected. "We felt that traditional art would be too harsh for the soft treatment given to the rest of the ship," said Mr Eide.

Edward Townsend



● The style and comfort aboard the Royal Princess. Left, the Princess court, one of the rooms for easy lounging with a sea view. Above: an outside de-luxe room with veranda, telephone and TV. Apart from a gentle rolling passengers will have to remind themselves that they are at sea.

See TV for what's on tonight's menu

The advanced technology incorporated in the Royal Princess will not only make passengers' lives safer and more comfortable but also insulate them, should they so desire, from the unsavoury aspects of the world.

Cocooned in their plush hotel-like cabins, these adventurers will be able to bask in the ultra-modern air conditioning and watch the scene outside the ship on the multi-channel TV.

Without moving from their non-flammable armchairs, the passengers will experience, via the small screen, the wonders of the Panama Canal or a Pacific sunset.

It is easy, however, to poke fun at the holiday demands of well-off Americans. P&O clearly has spent much time and effort in exploiting technology to the full to satisfy its customers' tastes and to provide a vessel that is cost-saving, efficient and profitable.

To start in the bowels of the ship, the least glamorous, but possible the most important, technological advance is in the engine room. Here are installed the four main Wärtsilä Pielstick engines arranged in pairs, each of which develops 9,900 hp,

operates through economisers and burns high viscosity, low efficiency fuel.

The significance is that the engines, which also generate electric power for the entire ship, and the two boilers utilise the cheap bottom-of-the-barrel "dirty" oil. David McKee, P&O Cruises' technical manager in Southampton, said: "The fuel these engines can cope with is not even on the market yet. It is the sort that the experts tell us we will be pleased to accept in a few years' time."

By using the main diesel engines to drive the alternators, the load on the engines can be kept at optimum level. At least one engine, therefore, will be running at all times driving one alternator - sufficient to power the ship.

P&O says that on the new ship, fuel charges should be only 5 per cent of total operating costs against about 25 per cent for the Canberra.

A high degree of advanced electronic systems is being installed in the engine room so that it could operate automatically. Unmanned engine rooms are not permitted on passenger vessels but, said Mr McKee, the

equipment would enable much greater efficiency and control.

The air conditioning system is claimed to be the most advanced and efficient available and the emphasis on running cost reduction for the ship has led to a large amount of insulation for the inside skin of the vessel and double glazing.

Exhaust heat from the engines will not be wasted. It will be taken up by the economisers which are installed in the funnel, and not as normal on the engines themselves, to produce steam for heating.

On the electronics front, the Royal Princess will be equipped with the latest, British designed and made satellite communications system. This will allow passengers to make and receive "secure" business and personal telephone calls as easily, it is claimed, as if they were on shore.

A large IBM computer will deal with all aspects of the ship's operation and any activity that generates money sales. All transactions like bar bills, laundry and hairdressing charges will be added automatically to customers' accounts.

The television system is

particularly novel. All the cabins will have an eight-channel colour TV which, when in port, can broadcast up to four of the local station programmes. There are also two video channels and a live, on-board channel.

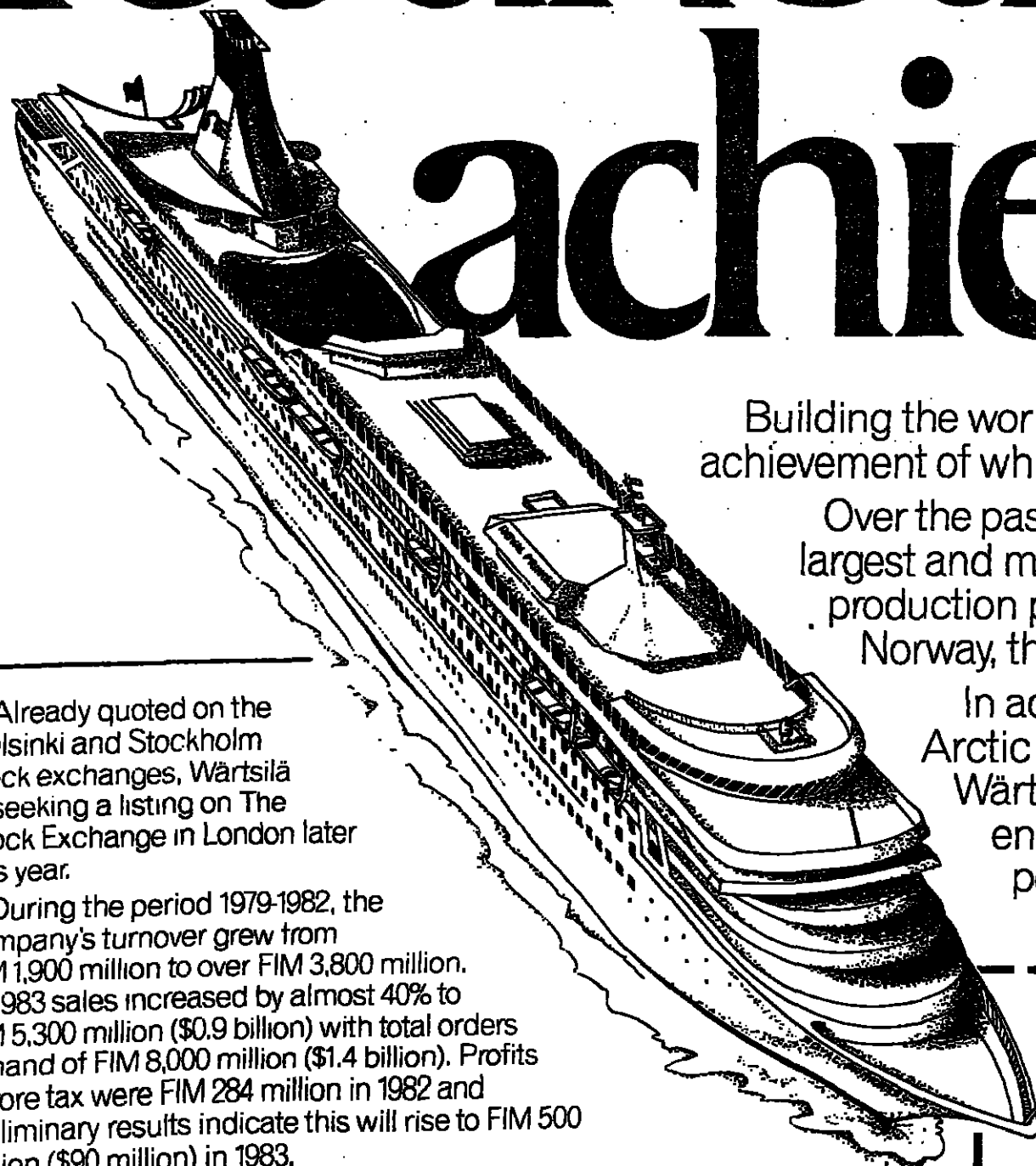
On-board cameras will relay to passengers a variety of events including water sports from the swimming pool or simply the view of the outside world.

The system also has an advanced teletext facility, with a large number of pages, that will enable passengers to call up a variety of information ranging from details of the next port of call to the evening's dinner menu, and even the latest bargains in the ship's shops.

Wärtsilä's unique design for the Royal Princess, with all of the cabins situated on the outside and at the top of the vessel, has enabled the centre of the ship to take the air conditioning machinery, staircases, lifts and all the ducts for wiring and pipes. All these services are situated between the fore and aft bulkheads and allow maintenance to be done without passenger disturbance.

E. T.

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During the period 1979-1982, the company's turnover grew from FIM 1,900 million to over FIM 3,800 million. In 1983 sales increased by almost 40% to FIM 5,300 million (\$0.9 billion) with total orders in hand of FIM 8,000 million (\$1.4 billion). Profits before tax were FIM 284 million in 1982 and preliminary results indicate this will rise to FIM 500 million (\$90 million) in 1983.

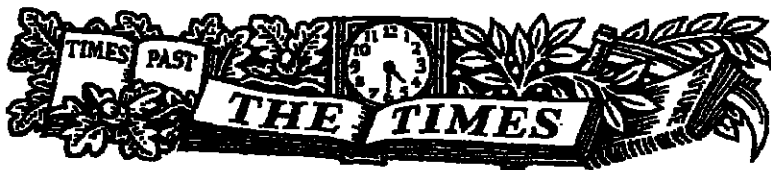
The London listing is a natural step for a growing international company with exports and overseas production accounting for 85% of its sales and with 13 of its 35 production plants outside Finland.

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DECISIONS POSTPONED

Triumphantly, the Government yesterday unveiled a white paper designed to prove that public spending is at last under control. That claim has been made too often in the past to be taken at its face value: there has been a real rise in public expenditure every year since 1979, and today it absorbs 2.5 per cent more of national income than it did in Labour's last year.

But the new plans, implying no further real rise over the next three years, do at last look attainable. Admittedly, the Government is still very bad at forecasting social security spending, which inevitably depends on the number of claimants - it has even had to increase its estimate of next year's bill by £1,300 million during the past few months. The white paper is still too optimistic about Whitehall's degree of control over local authority spending. And its targets for nationalized industries' supply of backdoor taxation, in the form of monopoly profits fed into the exchequer, still look over-ambitious. But at last the Treasury has made room within the totals for a reserve against unexpected contingencies that looks adequate.

All this, however, is a meagre harvest from five years of constant struggle over departmental budgets and hasty, ill-considered, last-minute cuts to keep the total under control. Nor is this over. These are only plans, after all; the further sharp cuts they imply in many departments have still to be translated into action. Yet none of them is based on a radical reappraisal of these departments' responsibilities. They are still largely based on a nibble here, a squeeze there, with the contingency

reserve ready to dole out to any minister who can get the prime minister on his side. The only difference with these targets is that the contingency reserve is big enough to absorb special pleading or the easing of impossible demands without breaching the overall limit. (The reserve, indeed, is big enough to arouse another suspicion: that Mr Lawson intends to dangle it over his colleagues' heads as a possible source of tax cuts if they can trim their budgets enough.)

Hitting targets is better than missing them; but it is not the real battle. The achievement the Government is now congratulating itself upon, after five years in office, is merely to have checked the upward drift in public spending at a time when rising output should enable it to do better. Even Messrs Callaghan and Healey, scorned by Mrs Thatcher for their economic management, did briefly succeed in making a real dent in public spending in the late 1970s. Yet Mrs Thatcher seems to have lost her ambition to do so. Only last month, on ITV's *Weekend World* programme, she told Brian Walden that "I do not believe it possible to cut public expenditure below the plans we indicated" the previous year. A welcome realism, perhaps, after the failed ambitions of past public spending reviews - but also an unwelcome note of defeatism.

For this year's public spending plans bear all the signs of decisions postponed. The rise in public spending has not been halted because the Government has got a grip on social security; even over a period when it is assumed that unemployment will flatten out, spending on

benefits goes up by nearly 18 per cent in three years, about 5 per cent faster than inflation. The money to pay for this, and for a hefty rise in defence spending, has been found in a series of thoroughly dubious ways.

It comes first out of the sale of public sector assets, a once-for-all financial boon of about £2,000 million a year between now and 1986-87. This should not be treated in public accounts in the same way as a cut in spending. As a source of funds, it is likely to dry up at just the moment when the Government's other great financial bonus, from North Sea oil, also begins to dwindle, leaving an awkward hole on the other side of the balance sheet for the late 1980s. Even the cuts outlined for specific programmes are the result of a badly-planned squeeze, not of deliberate decisions to alter the role of the state. It has been possible, for example, to trim education because the school population was falling; in the late 1980s that helpful trend will come to an end, before the Government has begun to focus on fundamental choices.

For five years the Government has fought an unrewarding battle to contain spending, with fading enthusiasm and sense of innovation and increasing recourse to the mindless trimming of budgets across the board. Exhaustion with this performance is not an excuse for inaction. Now is the time to plan priorities for the end of the 1980s, with full attention to their economic effect. If the Government tries to rest on its laurels, it will discover how quickly they wither and die.

BLACK AND WHITE IN LUSAKA

The agreement reached at Lusaka to set up a joint Angolan-South African commission to monitor the ceasefire along the Namibian border is undoubtedly "an important and constructive step" towards the eventual independence of Namibia, as the communiqué claims. There have been many previous false dawns and delicate negotiations still have to take place on such questions as: Will the South Africans really allow the South West African People's Organization (communist creatures of Moscow in their book) to take power in Windhoek? And will the Angolans in the end send the Cuban troops home?

Perhaps the cheering should thus be somewhat muted. But that things have progressed this far is a diplomatic triumph for the Americans. Dr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, has worked long and hard to bring this about, travelling repeatedly up and down the African continent. The Americans are optimistic (though they admit that things remain "fragile") that this is the beginning of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435, which calls for a ceasefire followed by elections and eventual independence. The five-nation Western "contact group" (Britain, Canada, France and

West Germany joining the Americans) were entrusted with finding ways to bring this about, but it has been Dr Crocker and his colleagues who have taken charge. They have been responsible for bringing into play the issue of the Cubans in Angola (not "linked" but "parallel"). If negotiations fail, the United States will be blamed by the whole of Africa. But persuading South Africa to announce three weeks ago a disengagement of its forces and a planned withdrawal from Angola was promising. The Lusaka agreement (the first such pact between South Africa and its black neighbours) looks like setting up a momentum.

Spokesmen for the Angolans and Swapo (which is notably absent from Lusaka) remain deeply mistrustful of South African motives. And neutral observers even now find it difficult to visualize the Pretoria Government sitting idly by while elections bring Swapo to power in Windhoek. The reforming Prime Minister, Mr Piet Botha, has enlarged his political base, but he is still sensitive to the heavy breathing on his right from Dr Andries Treurnicht and his splinter group, the Conservative Party. To be seen to sell South West Africa down the river would have serious political consequences.

The strength of the American argument over the past months has been that they had a deal to offer which could bring benefits to all concerned. The Namibians obviously want power. The Angolans have suffered greatly from the border war and by all accounts would also be glad to send their expensive Cuban protectors home if they could be sure of no more incursions from South Africa and if they could deal with the greatly expanding power of Unita (the second is a very big "if" which has received little attention in the negotiations).

For the South Africans there are pluses to be set against the internal political minuses. The huge cost of the war is an increasing embarrassment in economic hard times. And the human cost, about 75 dead a year, is enough to produce dangerous protests among whites against call-up to operational areas. There is also a strong argument which says that Swapo in power would be less of an ogre than Swapo in exile. Different personalities would be involved, and economics would force pragmatism; Namibia can survive only by continuing to be integrated into the South African economy and dependent on international capital.

THE OMAN CONTRACT

Although some of his insinuations are unpleasant and his latest line of questioning is irrelevant, incompetent and the rest of whatever it is lawyers say about each other, Mr Peter Shore is justified in having pressed the Prime Minister for a fuller statement about her part in the Oman university deal in 1981. Our political culture - and this is one of its better features - is strict about the separation of public duty and private financial interest. It demands that men and women in public life, especially ministers of the Crown and above all prime ministers, do not put themselves in a position in which there is, or appears to be, a conflict between public duty and private interest. Sir Winston Churchill when prime minister expressed the matter in the form of a rule almost exactly in those terms. It is Parliament's business to be alert to possible infractions.

The appearance of there being here the sort of conflict between duty and family interest that ministers are supposed to be careful to avoid arises from the fact that while she was in Oman the Prime Minister was, as she is happy to relate, strenuously promoting the claims of Britain to be the recipient of orders the Omani government was then placing for the construction of

the Sultan Qaboos university and teaching hospital. Simultaneously her son, Mr Mark Thatcher, was in the country in the capacity of businessman fishing in the same water for a contract on behalf of Cementation International with which he was remuneratively associated. Mother and son met twice, once in Abu Dhabi just before they went independently of each other into Oman, and again in the environs of the Sultan of Oman's summer palace two days later. Cementation was, as it happened, the only British firm after that contract at the time.

When almost three years later news of Mr Mark Thatcher's part in the affair reached the newspapers and the Prime Minister began to be asked questions in Parliament, it was not easy for her to know how best to respond. What she did was to say briefly and several times that she was out there battling for Britain by doing what she could to steer the Omani orders in Britain's direction; that she does not and did not on that occasion discriminate between British companies; and that she answers in the House of Commons for her actions as Prime Minister not for the actions of members of her family going about their own affairs.

The framework of that re-

sponse was appropriate. She gave at least some account of her official activity in the matter of the Oman contract, and she is most certainly not answerable for her son's business activities. But its brevity and intended finality did not fully take account of the unwelcome fact that there was in the situation described an appearance of conflict between public duty and private interest and that there were legitimate questions to be asked. She should have been more forthcoming.

As for Mr Mark Thatcher, the criticism would be that he was trading on his mother's name in a business matter in which she too was active in line with her public duties, and that this was going on in an environment which would be likely to exaggerate the influence he would derive from his relationship.

The Prime Minister is quite right not to be drawn into assuming responsibility for her son's business dealings. All the more reason why she should be as open and informative as possible about the official steps that were taken with a view to securing the Omani orders. Had she done so the affair would probably have died away as quickly as it arose.

Freedom at GCHQ to associate

From Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP for Leicester West (Labour)

Sir, Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, repeated in article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, says this: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

It is apparent that the remarkable statement of Mr Dennis Chiles (February 14), "The right to form and join trade unions is surely not a basic human right..." expresses a somewhat eccentric view and certainly not one which accords with international law and understanding.

The Government's real problem with GCHQ and international law arises not out of the agreed, clear and fundamental right of any citizen belonging to a trade union, but rather to the extent of the exceptions.

In the unhappy event of the Government carrying out its intentions, contrary to the recommendations of the Select Committee on Employment, upon which I am privileged to serve, I would be surprised if it does not face legal action - and equally surprised if it is not in breach of its obligations in international law.

As always, though, the law should only be the outward garb of morality. That the Government's action is ill-advised, ill-considered and wrong-headed is a view common to most MPs of all parties - as the select committee's report clearly indicates.

Yours faithfully,
GREVILLE JANNER,
House of Commons,
February 15.

Judges' powers and union rights

From Professor Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, FBA

Sir, The Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson (report, February 15) calls for more "trade union rights" in order that judges should have expanded powers to settle industrial disputes. Rights cannot be discussed in the abstract: we need concrete examples.

Would they include a union right in law to bargain (repealed 1980), or effective rights to consultation and information (now proposed by the EEC, opposed by the Government), or restored and expanded rights to fair wages for the low paid (progressively repealed from 1980 to 1983)? In all, what measure of fairness will be used?

Would a judge have power to restore to employment workers improperly dismissed (a sanction which existing laws cannot enforce)? Would courts enforce employment in the case of workers arbitrarily refused work (not only in sex or racial discrimination cases but also after blacklist embargo or refusal of engagement by reason of political or other prejudice)?

Above all, would the court enforce a right to work? The right that is top of most trade unionists' agenda is the right to a job. Would trade union rights include preference for members in employment?

Sir John seems to be rather more specific about the price to be paid. Industrial "warfare" outside the courtroom is to end. The right to "self-help" (usually known as the right to withdraw labour) is to be discouraged and eventually forbidden.

This is in line with his comments to Government in 1983. He adds

that binding collective agreements should be "encouraged" (as they were under the 1971 legislation). In Britain the main effect in law of that step is judicial enforcement of procedure clauses by injunction against unions and workers. To "forbid" workers to use "self-help" means ordering them to work.

In 1975 Sir John called for judges to have the jurisdiction to tell the public who is "right" in industrial disputes. This fallacious, corporatist belief that most disputes can and must be settled by reference to what a High Court judge thinks is "reasonable" vitiates such proposals. One recalls the somewhat similar proposals of Conservative barristers in *A Giant's Strength* in 1958.

Legislation cannot turn conflicts of interests into conflicts of rights just by saying so. Arbitration is not adjudication.

Workers will not in the long run accept regulation on such matters unless it rests upon a social consensus about the distribution of power and wealth which, in our society today, is less secure than ever since the war.

Judges who demand draconian powers to forbid workers to abstain from working must, whatever well intentioned bundles of rights they offer, remember with Lord Atkin that the legal right to choose constitutes in employment "the main difference between a servant and a serf".

Yours sincerely,
WEDDERBURN OF CHARLTON,
29 Woodside Avenue,
Highgate, N6,
February 15.

Female circumcision

From Lord Kennet and others

Sir, May we, who are promoting the Abolition of Female Circumcision Bill in the House of Lords, comment on the letter of the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (February 8)?

He asks to what extent this mutilation is now practised among us. We know it is happening, but we do not know how much; it is something people do not readily talk about. Perhaps gynaecologists are themselves the people most likely to know the extent. In this respect, as in others, we would welcome all the help which the royal colleges, each in its special position, can give.

Sir Rustam Feroze wonders who, under the Bill, would judge what was physically normal and what was an abnormality, and thus whether a given operation was legal or not. The answer is, it must be a registered medical practitioner.

The Bill does not allow "mental health" (as opposed to "physical health" or "abnormality") as a reason for operation. The exclusion of "mental health" as a reason to allow an operation on a healthy and physically normal girl or woman is not based on spurious racial grounds, but on very sound ones which have been roundly endorsed by the Commission for Racial

Equality. They are that mental health can only be included by specifically banning someone's "custom and ritual", for the first time in modern history. On the same day that Sir Rustam wrote his letter, the Lords rejected an amendment to include mental health, after full and informed discussion.

Sir Rustam writes: "The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has stated publicly that it is opposed to ritual circumcision in any form and does not oppose a Bill to ban it in the United Kingdom. We question... the need for the Bill..." That is not as clear and helpful an expression of the college's attitude as we might hope.

The Bill can still be amended at third reading in the Lords. We urge all those concerned to take into account not only the surgical side of this complex matter, but also the social, racial, and psychological aspect. Parliament is there to produce good law, and this is best done with the willing help and co-operation of all whose experience is relevant.

Yours etc,
KENNET,
COX,
MASHAM OF ILTON,
REA,
SEAR,
House of Lords,
February 9.

Countryside heritage

From Mrs D. Henion

Sir, Correspondents attempting to rebut Lord Melchett's letter (February 6) all have one thing in common, that they are so busy trying to score minor points that they completely fail to address the substance of his case. If according to Mr George Curtis, Peter Melchett is "bleating", his opponents are braying.

It may well be that in the particular case under discussion the hedgerows were put down for their own good; even so, where the land is already largely denuded, even the temporary destruction of cover is a setback for the wildlife of the area.

But the important point is that whatever the truth about the contribution to our landscape and wildlife of past farming methods, modern farming methods are still steadily depleting wild life habitats. The actual figures for this destruction can be found in the Nature Conservancy Council Habitat Report, but the basic facts have been known and repeated ad nauseam for at least the past decade, yet still the powers-that-be turn a deaf ear and a blind eye. One wonders whether they don't believe the facts or just don't care.

Even Sites of Special Scientific

Importance, which are supposed to be protected by the Countryside and Wildlife Act, are being continuously damaged and encroached upon before the NCC has time, with its very small staff, to put the provisions of the Act into operation. In the rest of the countryside the few remaining wildlife habitats - woodlands, wetlands, hedgerows, heaths etc are totally unprotected and at the mercy of agriculturalists.

That is why planning controls should be applied to agriculture, as they are to every other industry or individual. The idea that farmers should be free to do as they like with their own property is quite inappropriate when their property happens to consist of the entire countryside, which is also the only home of our native flora and fauna, everything which we call "nature".

Contrary to the apparent official view, "nature" is not a sectional interest of a few cranks and scientists; it is essential to the health and happiness of all. Do we want it relegated to a handful of "zoos", ie nature reserves, which we may visit in coachloads on selected weekends?

Yours faithfully,
D. HENION,
13 Owlstone Road,
Cambridge,
February 13.

Fate of Temple Bar

From the Chairman of the Temple Bar Trust and others

Sir, The inspector who presided over the recent public enquiry into the differing views about Temple Bar has not yet published his report, and in these circumstances we think it would be inappropriate to rehearse once again the arguments which were submitted to the inspector over a period of four days; but, in view of the letter you publish today (February 8) from the Duke of Grafton and others, all of whom were witnesses or were represented at the enquiry, we must at least, with your permission, make certain facts clear: 1. Temple Bar, the only surviving gateway to the City of London, is private property; it stands on land privately owned; there is no public access to it, though our endeavours to protect it from vandalism have unfortunately only had a limited effect.

2. It is not either the wish of the owner, or of ourselves, that this important piece of architecture, of such historical interest, should be left in a country wood.

ing our proposal to take Temple Bar back to the City.

3. There is no record known to us of any practical steps having been taken at any time by any of the distinguished bodies whose representatives have written to you, to protect, repair, safeguard or otherwise look after Temple Bar where it is. It was only after the City Corporation had granted us planning permission to re-erect Temple Bar in the City that this opposition began.

4. So far as we are aware, none of the opposing organisations have any funds whatever to implement their proposals, nor have they borne any of the expenses of protecting Temple Bar where it stands, nor have they offered to do so.

5. They overlook altogether that if Temple Bar is left where it is, partly repaired, there will be a continuing custodial expense, which clearly they are not going to meet.

Andropov's effect on Soviet press

From Miss Olga Franklin

Sir, Alas, poor Yuri (V. Andropov)! So few nice words. I followed his career line by line through *Pravda*, *Izvestia*, the famous *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, etc, and I feel justice ought to be done in the pages of *The Times*.

For one thing, he much improved the whole Moscow standard of journalism. This was not easy in so conservative a world as the USSR, so that even rumours of his own approaching death had to be severely muted. It seems I was the only monitor of the Soviet press to notice almost a month ago that *Pravda* was trying to say that he was dead or dying. After noticing the "obituary" type material being published about him, I said on *Weekend Woman's Hour* (Radio 4) that Andropov would "never be seen in public again".

The whole Soviet press changed for the better when he took power. His first action was to allow a *Pravda* editorial denouncing itself and the whole Soviet media for "sloganeering, phrase-making". Both paper and print improved so that it is now possible to read the Moscow papers without eyesight damage.

He permitted more freedom of the press than ever before. The *Izvestia* woman's supplement gave almost a whole page to a sex-and-crime story of a woman who murdered shop managers in the town of Ivanovo, with a short account of the trial and the man being condemned to death.

He allowed it to be revealed for the first time since the Revolution in 1917 that the Soviet Union does not have a welfare state. He allowed the *Literaturnaya Gazeta* to publish a whole page of letters from readers revealing that there is no automatic maternity grant, or pension, or any other financial support from the Government, and that cases of destitution have no choice between the poor house and the charity of friends or factory colleagues. (This was revealed in the fuss over some 3,380 unmarried mothers who besieged the courtroom in Tashkent last autumn to try and get some maintenance from runaway young fathers.)

Certainly all this limited "freedom" was permitted in the name of greater work discipline to try and improve Soviet productivity. Surely the important thing is that Mr Andropov had the courage to do it nevertheless. It would therefore be a pity to allow him to be buried without one single tribute.

Yours respectfully,
OLGA FRANKLIN,
5 Bishams Court,
Caterham,
Surrey,
February 14.

From Mr William Douglas-Home

Sir, Your leader writer told us this morning (February 14) that "... the Soviet leaders will continue to devote a disproportionate amount of their time to promoting their own careers".

A result of Western influence no doubt!
WILLIAM DOUGLAS-HOME,
Drayton House,
East Moon,
Hampshire,
February 14.

Animal experiments

From Mr Brian Gunn

Sir, According to your report (February 15) concerning the experiments performed on live animals at the Chemical Warfare Centre at Porton Down, Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence, refuses to reveal the precise details of this cruel research, even though the experiments are carried out in the name of the public and paid for with taxpayers' money.

Surely we have the right to know how our money is being spent? In particular, the ministry must reveal exactly what experiments are being performed on live animals at Porton Down, the total numbers of each species of animal involved in this research, and most importantly, whether any animals used in these obnoxious experiments are allowed to recover from the anaesthetic, when administered, and suffer whatever pain might ensue.

It appears that there is no legislation at all to control these experiments, as even the totally inadequate Cruelty to Animals Act of 1876 governing vivisection need not apply to the Crown.

Experiments on live animals concerned with warfare research are deeply offensive to millions of people in this country and this society calls for an immediate ban on all research of this nature.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN GUNN General Secretary,
The National Anti-Vivisection Society Limited,
51 Harley Street, W1,
February 16.

Wheels within wheels

From Mr Jack Adrian

Sir, "Got out of his pram" may well be a colloquialism rife in Islay's corridors of power, but I think what Mr Neil Kinnock really meant was "went off his trolley".

This means precisely what I suspect Mr Kinnock was getting at when referring to Mr George Shultz: that he was "on the hinge" or "over the edge" or even "off the roof" - in short, that Mr Shultz "wiggled out utterly".

Yours faithfully,
JACK ADRIAN,
Clematis Cottage,
Bury End Street,
Cradley,
Near Malvern,
Worcester,
February 15.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 16: The Queen, Patron, this morning attended a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the British Leprosy Relief Association (President, Mr. Chris Bonington; Chairman, Sir Gavin Bell) at All Hallows-by-the-Tower, Byward Street, London, EC3.

Her Majesty was received on arrival by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Dame Mary Donaldson) and the Vicar of All Hallows-by-the-Tower (the Reverend Peter Delaney).

The Address was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Blessing by the Bishop of London. Lady Susan Hussey, Mr. Robert Fellowes and Major Hugh Lindsay were in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. Amery and Lady Lucinda Lambton
The engagement is announced between Colin Amery, of 27a Upper Montagu Street, London, W1, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Amery, and Lady Lucinda Lambton, daughter of Lord and Lady Lambton.

Mr A. H. Walpole and Miss S. H. Butler
The engagement is announced between Alastair Henry, only son of Sir Raymond and Lady Walton, of Wimbledon, London, and Mary Synodale, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Dunboyne, of Chelsea, London.

Mr P. L. C. Griffith and Miss S. L. Griffith
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. L. C. Griffith, of Sydney, Australia, and Sarah, daughter of Mr J. E. Griffith, of Malacca, Spain, and Mrs S. Griffith, of Easing, Surrey.

Mr C. W. H. Carter and Miss J. D. Nolan
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Carter, of Bedale, Yorkshire, and Jenny, daughter of Mr Leonard Nolan and the late Mrs Pam Nolan, of Hightown, Merseyside.

Mr H. W. P. Clarke and Miss P. A. Ball
The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Dr T. Clarke, of Upton Pym, and Mrs J. Clarke, of Lymington, and Philippa Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. J. Bull, of Virginia Water.

Mr J. M. Freeman and Miss D. H. Tomkinson
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Freeman, of 65 Hillgrove Crescent, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Tomkinson, of Elford, Leicestershire, Worcestershire.

Aldro School

A presentation will be made on July 7 to the Headmaster of Aldro School, Mr. Crispin Hill, to mark his retirement. If you have not already been invited please contact the Secretary, Aldro, Sharncliffe, Godalming GU8 6AS.

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe visited The Queen at Buckingham Palace today.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 16: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Hepburn Staley Blind Aid Society at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Port Street.

Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 16: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, today attended the launch of the Farming and Wildlife Trust at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, WC2.

Mr John Higgs was in attendance. The Duke of Gloucester was present at a Reception given by the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers to mark the Quincentenary of the Grant of their Charter by Richard

Mr C. W. Goldsmith and Miss E. J. Rodgers
The engagement is announced between Corno, son of Mr and Mrs William Goldsmith, of Hambleton, Hampshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Rodgers, of Hurstpoint, Sussex.

Mr D. B. Hawthorne and Miss K. E. Ebrahim
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, son of Professor and Mrs J. N. Hawthorne, of Nottingham, and Kamila, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Z. Ebrahim, of Dulwich, London.

Mr I. Hensley-Hetherington and Miss E. J. Hodgson
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs J. Hetherington, of Blyth, Northumberland, and Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. O. Hodgson, of Neasham, Durham.

Mr A. H. Khamis and Miss F. H. Herzberg
The engagement is announced between Alan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. H. Khamis, of London, and Fay, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. H. Herzberg, of London.

Mr A. J. V. G. Lake and Miss K. P. Jones
The engagement is announced between Adrian John, youngest son of Mr and Mrs G. V. Lake, of Vyne Cottage, Dorchester, Oxfordshire, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. K. Jones, of Old School House, Henley-on-Thames.

Mr R. J. Martin and Miss G. M. Mountain
The engagement is announced between Raymond, only son of Mr and Mrs A. J. Martin, of Eastcote, Middlesex, and Gillian, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. O. Mountain, of Cambridge.

Dr J. J. Payne-James and Miss H. S. Bevan-Jones
The engagement is announced between Jason, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Ian Payne-James, of Copdock, Suffolk, and Hilary, daughter of Dr and Mrs Harry Bevan-Jones, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Seminar

English-Speaking Union of Sri Lanka
The English-Speaking Union of Sri Lanka held a seminar in Colombo on February 15 on the role of English in promoting peace, unity and unity in a multicultural society.

Science report

Throwing light on test-tube photosynthesis

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Scientists have been trying for many years to mimic the processes of photosynthesis in the laboratory. The rewards which could flow from subsequent developments in agriculture, solar energy conversion and storage, and for the chemical industry are immense.

The immediate goal of the research is to discover a combination of compounds which, when assembled in a test tube, will behave in the same way as different types of photosynthetic reaction centres in plants and algae where photosynthesis occurs. The difficulties include finding stable molecules, capable of a photochemical change in a fraction of a second, and possessing the ability to remain in their changed state until energy extracted from light allows a reversal to their original state.

According to a report in the latest issue of *Nature* from a group of scientists who have been working with Professor Thomas Moore of Arizona State University, one of the main obstacles to the development of an artificial photosynthetic system has been overcome.

They have discovered the trick using a combination of materials which when exposed to 100 picosecond flashes of light, simulating individual photons of solar radiation, produces a stable but reversible change. (A picosecond is one-millionth of a second.)

Several types of reaction centre exist in photosynthetic organisms. Higher plants and algae, which use water as the source of electrons and protons to help break down carbon dioxide during the photosynthesis reaction, contain two types of reaction centre known simply as photosystem one and photosystem two.

Photosynthetic bacteria, which do not get their energy from water, reduce carbon dioxide but exploit more reactive substances such as hydrogen sulphide and organic acids for that purpose, contain only one type of reaction centre.

Despite these fundamental chemical differences, all photosynthetic reaction centres consist of a chromophore (P), which is always a chlorophyll molecule that absorbs light energy, and a closely associated electron donor (D) and acceptor (A). The chemical nature of D and A can vary. But in most cases the acceptor is quinone.

Professor Moore and his colleagues have synthesised a stable molecule which mimics the photochemical properties of natural reaction centres.

For the experiment it was contended that the subjective approach applied throughout in respect of the three requirements, which should be read as one and the same, consideration of the effect of alcohol on his actual personal ability to believe, suspect, or have reason to suspect, that he had in his possession a controlled drug.

For the prosecution it was submitted that the evidence introduced for the purpose of establishing the concept of that which was reasonable, and that affected the belief and suspicion; also that it was correct to introduce a subjective test of the reasonable sober man.

It was clearly the law that when reasonable grounds for belief were canvassed, self-intoxication would not avail. For the appellant it was submitted that "had reason to suspect" was not the same thing as "reasonable grounds for belief". Reliance was placed on *Jaggard v Dickinson* [1981] QB 527.

That was authority, not binding on the court but nevertheless persuasive, for the proposition that where there was an exculpatory self-inducement of honest belief, a factor which must be considered in the context of a subjective

Memorial services

Mr R. I. Kenyon-Stacey
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Robert Ivan Kenyon-Stacey was held on Saturday, February 11, at St Andrew's Church, Shifnal, Shropshire. Canon Keith Wilkes officiated, assisted by the Rev John Turner and Mrs John Thorncroft. Mr Rupert, Mr Thomas and Miss Natasha Kenyon-Stacey (sons and daughter) read the lessons and Canon Wildes gave an address. Among those present were: Mrs Robin Kenyon-Stacey (widow), Mr and Mrs P. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs J. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs A. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs M. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs K. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs L. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs N. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs O. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs P. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs Q. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs R. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs S. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs T. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs U. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs V. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs W. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs X. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs Y. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs Z. Kenyon-Stacey, Mr and Mrs A. 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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Cash alternative as M1 fails to measure up

Short of one of those extraordinary last-minute turnarounds, the Government's £10 billion target for public borrowing in 1983-84 looks well within its grasp. The latest official figures show that the public sector repaid debt of £2.6 billion last month to bring total borrowing for the first 10 months of the financial year to £7.5 billion.

The monetary background to the Budget also looks encouraging following a slowdown in monetary growth last month. Bank of England figures show the main measure of the money supply, sterling M3, rose by 0.6 per cent to remain within the Government's 7 to 11 per cent target range. Bank lending to the private sector totalled £1.28 billion, rather higher than the average for last year but well down on the £1.71 billion recorded in December.

The Government's finances are commonly in surplus in the early part of the year as the main tax gathering season gets under way. Treasury calculations were upset last year by the eleventh-hour spending spree by government departments, which added more than £3 billion to borrowing in February and March. This year officials appear confident that a similar spree can be avoided. They expect cash limits, which were reduced by the Chancellor in his emergency measures last July, to begin to bite shortly.

Nevertheless, the latest figures show that departmental spending is still running well ahead of plans. Spending so far this financial year is 9.4 per cent up on the same period last year, 4 per cent higher than budgeted, though after adjustment the Treasury estimates the underlying rise at something less than 8 per cent. If continued this would imply an overspend this year of £2 billion, compared with an estimate of only £500m in the public spending White Paper published yesterday.

The prospects for public borrowing are improved by higher-than-expected tax revenues which are 7.4 per cent up from a year earlier in the first 10 months of 1982-83.

The public sector surplus and heavy sales of gilts and national savings largely offset the impact on the January money supply of buoyant bank lending and a steep increase in lending overseas. The narrow money measure, M1, fell by 0.2 per cent and the broad measure of private sector liquidity, PSL2, rose by 1.1 per cent in the month. Since last February when the target period began M1 has grown by 11.4 per cent at an annual rate and PSL2 at 12.3 per cent, compared with 10.7 per cent for sterling M3.

Come the Budget, M1 is booked to slip gracefully from the headlines as a narrow money measure, because it has become far too sensitive to interest rates. The proportion of interest-bearing deposits in M1 has grown from a tenth to more than a quarter since 1975. The point of a narrow money measure is as a guide to the level of spending - transactions in the jargon - rather than credit. In his Mansion House speech, the Chancellor paved the way for a switch to M0, the wider monetary base.

For the cogswheel, one of the minor points of interest in Mr Lawson's Budget speech will be whether he opts for M0 or the even narrower measure notes and coins and whether he lays down a specific target for this.

James Capel, the stockbrokers, suggest he should opt for notes and coins while the statisticians wait to see if M2, the

latest specially designed measure, comes up to scratch. They also suggest that a target for 3 to 7 per cent for notes and coins would fit with 6 to 10 per cent targets for the wider measures.

A new Treasury working paper also points more cautiously to notes and coins in circulation. It concludes that even these narrow measures have become more interest-sensitive in the past few years, but not unduly so. It is also possible to adjust the figures to take away distortions caused by the trend to the cashless society, principally by allowing for the growth of bank and building society accounts.

Given these adjustments, both M0 contains two irrelevant elements. Cash in bank tills fluctuates widely short-term and bankers' working deposits at the bank of England are more a function of the regime of monetary control than short-term trends in the economy.

The Chancellor should plump for measuring and targeting the amount of notes and coins in circulation. Then, for the first time, the authorities will actually be talking about what the vast majority of the public thinks of as money and all those homely metaphors about printing the stuff will at last take on some substance.

A Morgan at the helm

A descendant of one of the founding fathers of Morgan Grenfell, one of the City's leading merchant banks, now sits at the head of its American operation, Morgan Grenfell Inc. Mr John A Morgan, aged 33, has hitherto resisted the temptation to join one of the Morgan family firms.

For the past two years he has been the Morgan of Morgan Lewis Githens & Ahn, a New York investment banking firm. Before that he was vice-chairman of Smith Barney, Harris Upham and given credit for much of that firm's expansion. He will continue as a partner of his own firm in addition to being the non-executive chairman of Morgan Grenfell Inc.

Following Mr Morgan's appointment as chairman, Mr Christopher Whittington, who is based in London, will become executive vice-chairman. Mr John Franklin remains deputy chairman and Mr John Fraser continues as president.

Mr Morgan's appointment signals an acceleration of Morgan Grenfell's development in New York. Its New York broker-dealer business is 40-strong. The great-great-grandson of Junius Spencer Morgan and great-grandson of the legendary J. Pierpont Morgan is expected to bring considerable experience in the securities industry and mergers and acquisitions, and "tremendous contacts" in New York and elsewhere.

Morgan Grenfell's New York operation specializes in mergers, acquisitions, leasing and project finance. It is examining the possibility of becoming an American money manager and a trader in US Government securities. In London, Morgan Grenfell and Wedd Darrell Morgan have been in talks which may lead to a trading link, although both companies say they are talking with other possible partners. In Tokyo the bank has a representative office but is now contemplating ways of strengthening its Japanese profile, including an application to join the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Halifax barred from opening offshoot in Isle of Man

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Plans by the Halifax Building Society to set up an offshoot in the Isle of Man to take deposits and pay interest to investors without deducting tax have been unexpectedly blocked by the UK authorities.

The Halifax was hoping to open for business in the Isle of Man in the spring. Another lending society, the Leicester was working on similar plans. However, Mr Richard Hornby, chairman of the Halifax, revealed yesterday that at a very late stage the UK authorities expressed doubts whether building societies could operate in this way within the present legal framework and the Halifax had been forced to postpone its plans.

Building societies are regulated by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and Mr Michael Bridgeman, Chief Registrar, said yesterday that he could not comment on the matter at this stage.

However, the chief objection of the authorities appears to

have been that if the scheme went ahead, the Halifax would not have been able to stand behind the Isle of Man offshoot in the event of problems. Under present legislation, building societies are not allowed to set up or make payment to subsidiaries.

Official sources also indicated that the scheme could have led to tax problems. It was suggested in other quarters that the possibility of investors using the Manx offshoot for tax evasion had prompted considerable concern.

At the Leicester Building Society, Mr Scott Durward, chief general manager, declined to make any comment. "There is absolutely nothing I want to say about the Isle of Man at the moment. I would prefer to remain totally silent on the subject," he said.

Halifax was planning to use a Manx offshoot to gather deposits from expatriates and use the proceeds both for mortgage finance in the Isle of Man and

to help meet demand for mortgages on the mainland. The society said there was no intention that it should be relevant to United Kingdom taxpayers.

Halifax said yesterday that there had been clear informal indications that it would be allowed to proceed but there had been a change of heart at a very late stage.

Mr Hornby said more realistic legislation was urgently needed to "avoid wasteful exercises of this kind".

Earlier he announced record results for the Halifax in the year and plans to push up lending a further 20 per cent to £4,400m this year.

Society may cut rate in April

The Halifax might step out of line with a cut in its mortgage rate in April, if it judged conditions were right, Mr Richard Hornby, chairman of

Britain's biggest society, said yesterday. However, he emphasized that a move would depend on next month's Budget and the likely response from other societies.

It would have to be a judgement of demand and supply on one hand and our expectations of what other societies will do. The fewer who follow suit, the greater the risk to us," he said.

Although mortgage demand is even stronger than predicted only a month ago, Mr Hornby suggested that building societies might soon be in a position to lower their rates but still satisfy borrowers' needs. But he conceded that in the aftermath of the break-up of the interest rate cartel and in the present competitive climate, it was very difficult for one or two societies, however big, to cut their rates in isolation.

They would risk a big outflow of funds and, because of this, rates were likely to stay higher for longer.

Sterling rallies

Sterling gained against most currencies during the day, despite some hesitation in the foreign exchange markets over the direction of the dollar.

The pound closed in London at \$1.4450, up 0.25 cents, and it also made progress against the Deutschmark and French franc. The trade weighted index rose by 0.3 to 82.1.

Early trading in the dollar was active as market operators tried to work out which way the currency was going. But later in the day some optimistic American personal income and housing start figures pushed the dollar up against continental currencies.

The dollar gained 40 points against the Deutschmark to close at DM5.2675, and added 1.65 centimes against the French franc to FF8.2415. It slipped, however, when compared with the Swiss franc and also lost ground against the yen.

STOCK EXCHANGES

SE 100 Index: 1035.0 up 2.0 (day's high 1035.6, low 1030.4)
FT Index: 817.9 up 1.3
FT Gilt: 82.88 up 0.12
Bargains: 21,406
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1157.66 down 1.05
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 8,987.15 up 1.99
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1084.06 down 6.59
Amsterdam: 165.4 down 0.7
Sydney: 20 Index 746.2 up 3.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1052.7 up 12.9
Brussels: General Index 141.24 down 0.11

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4450 up 1/4 cent (day's high 1035.6, low 1030.4)
DM 387 up 0.0125
FF 11,9050 up 0.04
Yen 336.75 unchanged
Dollar
Index 128.4 down 0.5
DM 2.6765 up 0.0038
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4435
Dollar DM 2.6770
INTERNATIONAL
ECU ECU 28.8777
SDR ECU 16.497

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9 1/8-9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 8 1/2-10%
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 1/4%
3 month FF 5 1/2-5 1/4%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 100 1/2-100 3/4

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)
am \$383.10 pm \$382.90
close \$383.75-\$384.25
(\$265.75-\$266.25)
New York (latest): \$383
Kruggerand (per coin): \$385-397 (\$274-\$275)
Sovereigns (new): \$50-51 (\$365-\$365)
Excludes VAT

USM plans for double glazing firm

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Therm-A-Stor, the double glazing company which has rebelled in size during the crisis, is to secure public flotation on the Unlisted Securities Market this autumn.

The spectacular rise of the company has boosted it to the No 3 position in the double glazing market behind Everest and Anglian. Turnover this year will be close to £30m compared with £10m in 1980.

The USM flotation will confirm the millionaire status of Mr John Morris, the Therm-A-Stor chairman who bought the once-dormant operation in 1975 for £800. Today, he says, the company is worth £30m.

From a loss of more than £300,000 in 1975-76, Mr Morris has turned round the company's fortunes to a post-tax profit of £700,000 in 1983, a figure that he predicts will be at least doubled this year.

In 1976, we were 8,000th out of 9,000 double glazing companies. Today, we are third, proving that good management can make it against the odds."

The £600m-a-year double glazing market has shown some resilience during the recession as the result of home owners' inactivity in their properties rather than moving house. Mr Morris says he has seen a particularly rapid increase in business since Christmas, due, he believes, to definite signs of economic recovery. Much of the new business is on credit, "a sign that people are no longer afraid of losing their jobs".

Mr Morris, aged 37, whose tags-to-riches story impressed the Prime Minister to the extent that she agreed to open his factory in Peterborough last year, is planning to maintain personal control of the company after the USM flotation while using the proceeds for expansion.

Therm-A-Stor, the last remaining independent among the important double glazing companies, moved to Peterborough in 1979 and opened a 10,000 sq ft factory a year ago. It now employs 1,400 there and at 20 branches around the country.

Sedgwick Group director resigns

By Our Financial Staff

A director of the Sedgwick Group, the largest Lloyd's insurance broking firm, has resigned after an investigation of his relationship with PCW Underwriting Agencies. PCW is at the centre of Department of Trade and Industry and police inquiries into the problems at Lloyd's.

Sedgwick said yesterday that it had been informed that Mr Robert Adams, chairman of the Sedgwick Marine Group, and Mr Geoffrey Naude, a former marine underwriter, had received payments from Mr Peter Cameron-Webb, the former chairman of PCW, when they were Sedgwick employees.

Having investigated the position, the board of Sedgwick is satisfied that the payments were made to the individuals concerned in their personal capacity without the knowledge, of any impropriety on the part of the Sedgwick Group, the company said.

Mr Adams, a vice-president of the Insurance Institute of London and an underwriting member of the Lloyd's market, resigned his position at Sedgwick earlier this week. Mr Naude retired from the company in December.

Sedgwick began its investigation after being informed in December of the payments by Department of Trade and Industry and Lloyd's.

The affairs of PCW, a part of the Minet Holdings insurance group, came under investigation in November, 1982.

Honda may set up plant in UK

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Honda of Japan has once again raised the long-term possibility of building a motorcycle manufacturing plant in Britain, but there appears to be little hope of a decision for several years.

The company first revealed its intention to conduct a feasibility study in Britain a year ago after a visit to Japan by Mr Patrick Jenkin, then the Industry Secretary. The announcement, made by Honda's then president, Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, was seen at the time as one of several attempts being made by Japanese industry to calm European fears over the trade imbalance.

Honda's new chairman, Mr Tadashi Kume, said yesterday that the company was still looking at the possibility of a British factory.

US group in £13m Suter deal

By Jonathan Clare

One of the world's biggest manufacturers of refrigerator compressors has acquired an option to buy 10 per cent of Suter Electrical, which bought the Prestcold refrigeration business from BL under the guidance of Mr David Abell.

The option is part of a deal worth £13m of Suter which involves selling the Prestcold SHUD division and its two distribution subsidiaries to Copeland Corporation of the US. Suter also gets distribution rights for Copeland's equipment, which could increase turnover of the Nationwide Refrigeration Supplies division by between £2m and £7m.

It was also revealed yesterday that the merchant bank Robert Fleming had built up a stake that could be worth 20 per cent of Suter, including conversion of convertible loan stock.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kennedy Brookes deal near

Young's brewery, Seagrams, the Canadian drinks group, and James Burrow, makers of Beaufort gin, are about to emerge as big shareholders in Lennoxcourt, the company formed by Kennedy Brookes to develop and manage three theme eating and drinking areas in the £45m Trocadero development off London's Piccadilly Circus. The company is expected to be floated on the Stock Exchange at some stage.

Kennedy Brookes, the Mario and Franco restaurant group, claims a 51 per cent interest in the company, which will have spent about £3.8m on the project by the time the Trocadero opens in May.

● Sales of unit trusts continued to boom in January as investors piled in on the back of rising markets and a flood of promotional advertising. Sales for the month reached a record high of £327m, 25.5 per cent up on the previous record of £260.6m achieved in November 1983.

● Marler Estates said yesterday that its controversial £1m all-share bid for SB Property, the company which owns Chelsea Football Club's ground, had gone unconditional. Marler said it had received acceptance for 69.38 per cent of the "A" shares and that the offer was being extended until March 2.

● Receivers have been called in at Highgate Optical and Industrial after several years of mounting losses. Highgate, which distributes optical and photographic equipment, said yesterday that it had "no alternative but to ask National Westminster Bank to appoint a receiver."

Reed buys US magazines

By Philip Robinson

Reed International, the publishing company which owns Mirror Group Newspapers, yesterday announced it has spent \$4.1m (£3.4m) on buying American magazines.

The latest two - Interior Design and Corporate Design - from Whitney Communications Corporation have a \$12m turnover.

Reed says it recently bought three others: Chemical Purchasing, Energy Design Update and

Food Transportation. These have a combined turnover of \$16m.

The magazines increased to 30 the titles of Cahners Publishing, the US publishing arm of Reed and one of the largest publishers and organizers of trade and consumer exhibitions.

The purchases are part of a strategy review which Reed is carrying out.

Takeover by GKN 'would hurt UK trade'

Carmakers oppose AE merger

By Andrew Cornelius

Evidence from the leading motor manufacturers in Europe, including Ford, General Motors, Volkswagen and Renault, could lead to a decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block any renewed takeover attempt for AE (formerly Associated Engineering) by its Midlands rival, Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds.

The motor manufacturers say that if the merger goes ahead there would be a net loss of trade for Britain in vital engine components like pistons and bearings where AE and GKN are currently used as alternative suppliers.

Mr John Collyear, chairman of AE, said yesterday his original estimates that Britain's share of engine bearing business in continental Europe would fall from 90 per cent to 75 per cent if the merger went through had been revised downwards. "After taking stock of our customers' reaction to a merger we estimate that a more realistic figure is 60 per cent," he said.

Mr Collyear indicated that this pattern would be repeated in other areas including the supply of engine cylinder liners



John Collyear, business share will fall.

where both AE and GKN supply European manufacturers.

Before the Monopolies Commission investigation began into GKN's proposed £67m takeover of AE last year GKN had argued that a merger would strengthen the British motor components industry and help it to win orders in an increasingly international marketplace.

However, AE has used the six-month breathing space allowed by the monopolies investigation to stiffen its defence against a renewed takeover attempt by GKN. The commission's report on the takeover is due to be completed within the next three weeks, with a final decision expected from the Government by end of March.

If the Government chooses to ignore the warnings by motor manufacturers about the detrimental effects of a merger AE is ready to launch an aggressive campaign to protect its independence.

The AE management team and 16,000 employees have thrown their weight behind the board in its attempt to produce results which will help to save off a bid by GKN. Pretax profits for the current year are running way ahead of budget. In the first quarter to December 30, AE produced pretax profits of £3m against a target of £2.5m, and £400,000 pretax for the previous year to September 30.

Analysts are looking for pretax profits of about £14m for the current year and £20m next year as AE's recovery continues. The results could be helped by a windfall £8m contribution from property disposals.

Trusthouse Forte

Results Year to 31st October 1983

	1983 £m	1982 £m
Trading Receipts	1012.0	915.4
Trading Profit (before depreciation)	134.8	111.8
Profit before Tax	82.1	57.1
Profit after Tax and minority interest	62.0	46.8
Dividend per share	8.25p	7.0p
Earnings per share (net)	15.9p	12.0p

Turnover of over a Billion Pounds
Profit before tax up 44% on last year.

Dividend increased by 18%, plus one for one Scrip Issue.
Balance Sheet remains strong - ratio of net borrowings to shareholders' investment 0.34:1.

Trading in the current year is considerably ahead of last year and we look forward to further progress in our operations and profits.

To book at any of our hotels, ring our reservation offices on 01-567 3444 or 061-969 6111 or see your travel agent, or ring the hotel direct.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Secretary, 122 Shaftesbury Street, London W1V 7RD

Yours faithfully
Trusthouse Forte

Petranoil to search for oil in Texas

By Michael Clark
Dog Bend Lime, Ellenberger and Pal Pinto Lime are all familiar terms to the oil rich operators of Texas, they could also become part of the vocabulary of British institutions before long. This is because a British company intends to take on the Americans at their own game and search for oil in the plains of Texas.

Petranoil, an oil exploration company formed in 1981, is applying under Chapter 7 of the Stock Exchange's Yellow Book for a full listing. Under the guidance of Brown Shipley and broker L. Messel, 2.8 million shares (about 26 per cent of the issued share capital) at 125p a share are being offered to raise £3.05m to finance further exploration and pay off existing borrowings.

Petranoil was the brain child of Mr Clive Smith who is well known in the oil circles and has in the past built an impressive private business empire, including Britain's largest private mine.

Mr Smith intends to get the oil out of the ground as cheaply and quickly as possible. This makes the oilfields of Texas the best choice. Texas supplies about 30 per cent of America's energy needs and has to date produced 46 billion barrels.

Petranoil already has sizable stake in three fields Hearn, Windham and Sweetwater totalling 3,200 acres, ranging from 50 per cent of the lease to 100 per cent. Part of the proceeds will go towards financing the Sweetwater leases.

For the year to September 30, 1983, pretax profits stood at £151,000 and for the remaining three months of the year were £101,000 with a projected cash flow of £2.5m.

Debt fears ease but banks remain wary

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

The sovereign debt exposure of the big international banks has been a considerable source of worry for banking supervisors around the world since the debt problems of the developing countries emerged. However, success of bankers, the International Monetary Fund and central banks in tackling the problems of the big debtors has helped to greatly reduce concern in banking circles over the past year.

In the past six months, for instance, increased quotes were finally agreed for the International Monetary Fund, allowing it to continue playing a crucial role alongside the banks. An \$11 billion rescue package was finally put in place for Brazil after months of tortuous negotiations and Mexico has shown encouraging signs of a return to financial health.

Problems remain, however, with Argentina a particular worry for bankers because of its serious economic problems and officials in both Britain and the United States are conscious that difficult times could lie ahead.

The nine largest US banks have about 300 per cent of their capital exposed in loans to developing countries and Eastern Europe, according to a study by Mr William R. Cline of Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Even more worrying for United States officials is the fact that one of the two largest American banks has 74 per cent of its equity exposed in Brazil and nearly 55 per cent in Mexico.

Because of its geographical closeness, Latin America is the area where United States banks have found themselves with the biggest problems. British banks have also lent heavily in this area. Midland Bank has a significant exposure to Latin America through its Californian subsidiary, Crocker National Corporation while Lloyds Bank has longstanding links with the continent.

British banks, compared with their American counterparts, also have sizable exposures to Eastern Europe. However, worries about Comecon borrowers have been greatly allayed by the stringent adjustment measures many of them have taken and the big improvements in their current account positions.

British banks are also among the strongest capitalized in the world and are considered to be less prone to the dangers which could afflict leading banks if a big borrower declared a default on its loans.

Despite this, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, stressed recently the importance of international banks ensuring they were well capitalized. "International banks need to sustain and emphasized the need for adequate bad debt provisions against doubtful loans."

Foreign exposure of US banks at June 1983

	All banks (\$ millions)
Eastern Europe	6,111
Opec members	24,921
Latin America and Caribbean	70,214
Asia	28,808
Africa	4,980
Other	221,211
Total	355,945

Exposures to Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela

	\$ millions	% of total assets
Bank America	7,200	5.8
Chase Manhattan	6,323	7.9
Citicorp	10,823	8.3
Manufacturers		
Hankover	6,074	9.4
Barclays	2,100	3.5
Lloyds	2,200	9.3
Midland	2,800	5.8
National West	1,600	2.9

Source: Wood Mackenzie estimates, US statistics, Salomon Bros.

Foreign exposure of UK registered banks and overseas operations at June 1983

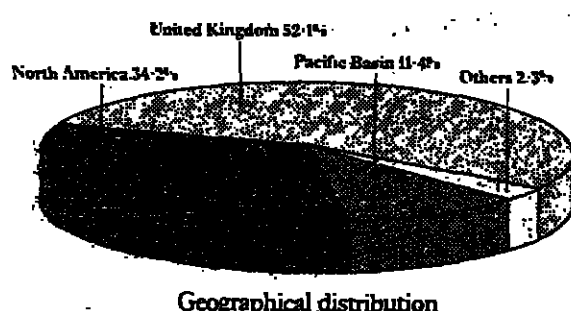
	(\$ millions)
Eastern Europe	7,157
Opec members	11,432
Latin American and Caribbean	24,804
Asia	9,245
Africa	4,808
Other	110,111
Total	167,557

Source: Bank of England.

The Charter Trust & Agency PLC

Highlights of the year (ended 30th November 1983)

Gross revenue	£3,280,436 + 14.4%
Dividend per share	1.975p + 6.8%
Net asset value per share	81.5p + 29.4%
Total assets	£67,376,943



MANAGERS KLEINWORT BENSON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts are available from the Secretary, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB.



The Trans-Oceanic Trust PLC

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Wednesday, 15th March, 1984.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31st October, 1983.

	1983	1982
Total Revenue	£2,734,011	£1,828,434
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£1,083,080	£ 935,389
Earnings per Ordinary Share	2.95p	2.54p
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	2.54p	2.54p
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	170.5p	127.8p

In his Statement in the Annual Report the Chairman, Sir Ashley Ponsonby, commented: In the autumn of 1982 the Directors considered the relative attractions of the US stockmarket and currency to be compelling and arranged a \$7.5 million loan in order to increase American exposure. The equity portion of this loan was liquidated in January 1983 resulting in a profit of £2 million. The dollar loan bond portfolio, however, was increased during the year in order to take advantage of the very high real interest rates. Towards the end of 1983 it was felt that the relative strength of the dollar might be coming to an end. \$12 million of existing US equity core investments were switched into a dollar loan account so that they might be protected from any possible weakness in the currency.

Including both dollar loans, some 57% of the Trust's investments were in North America at the year end. The proportion invested in US equities was reduced in the summer when some £2 million of small, high technology stocks were sold. We felt that the valuations put on such stocks by the market were high and discounted rates of growth which might not be attainable. Some 31% of the Trust was invested in the UK where the emphasis continued to be on high yielding recovery stocks which appeared relatively attractive within the market. Such stocks proved good investments in terms of both capital and income. Japanese investments in the Trust were increased slightly to 7.5% during the year.

The Board has limited the percentage of unquoted investments in the Trust to 10% and these venture capital holdings have been taken in companies which the Directors believe have sound long-term prospects.

Some two-thirds of the Trust's gross assets are now invested overseas where the after-tax income returns are low. Moreover, about one-fifth of the Fund is invested in high yielding American junior growth stocks and venture capital situations. Nevertheless, the Trust's earnings rose by 16% over the previous year. Though this was aided in part by the large US bond portfolio the Directors hope that income will continue to grow in 1984, though probably at a lower rate.

The overall objective of the Trust is the achievement of capital growth coupled to further increases in income. To this end the Directors will maintain a flexible approach.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

New orders exceed expectations

Growth of German domestic sales - Capital expenditure up 20%

New orders

During the first quarter of the current financial year, or from 1 October to 31 December 1983, new order receipts of £3,198m remained 7% below those of the comparable period in 1982. At that time, however, orders for the Emsland nuclear power plant, together with the impending expiration of a government capital investment grant, caused an order surge that catapulted growth 25% above the previous year's level. When allowance is made for these special influences affecting last year's first-quarter figure, new orders for the first three months of the current financial year were better than expected.

Excluding power plant business, Siemens recorded a 3% increase of new orders from the German domestic market, while new

orders received from abroad matched last year's volume.

Order results were strongly supported by increased worldwide demand for electronic components and, in particular, for integrated circuits. The Components Group chalked up some 40% more orders than a year ago. The medical engineering and data systems sectors, which last year reported especially high growth rates, achieved a slight rise of orders again this year due to intensified international business.

in £m	1/10/82 to 31/12/82	1/10/83 to 31/12/83	Change
New orders	3,426	3,198	- 7%
Domestic business	1,853	1,700	- 8%
International business	1,573	1,498	- 5%

Sales

First-quarter sales rose 8% worldwide to £2,462m. The increase derived exclusively from German domestic business, which yielded sales of £1,218m or 17% more than for the same period last year. At £1,244m, international sales were roughly on a par with levels a year ago (£1,228m). Above-average

growth rates were again recorded in data systems, medical engineering, and components.

in £m	1/10/82 to 31/12/82	1/10/83 to 31/12/83	Change
Sales	2,269	2,462	+ 8%
Domestic business	1,041	1,218	+ 17%
International business	1,228	1,244	+ 1%

Orders in hand

During the first quarter, orders in hand rose 5% to £15,348m. Inventory stood at £4,949m, 8% above the volume at the start of the financial year. The increase is very largely associated with ongoing power plant projects.

in £m	30/9/83	31/12/83	Change
Orders in hand	14,566	15,348	+ 5%
Inventory	4,584	4,949	+ 8%

Employees

The decline in the number of Siemens employees has slowed appreciably. In the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West), the Siemens work force decreased 1% to 210,000 people. This was primarily because of the contractually scheduled departure of temporarily employed students. Outside Germany, the total number of employees remained unchanged at 101,000. An average of 312,000 people were employed by Siemens worldwide during the period under review, or 2% fewer than a year ago. In contrast, employment cost went up 3% to £1,076m.

in thousands	30/9/83	31/12/83	Change
Employees	313	311	- 1%
Domestic operations	212	210	- 1%
International operations	101	101	0%

	1/10/82 to 31/12/82	1/10/83 to 31/12/83	Change
Average number of employees in thousands	320	312	- 2%
Employment cost in £m	1,041	1,076	+ 3%

Capital spending and net income

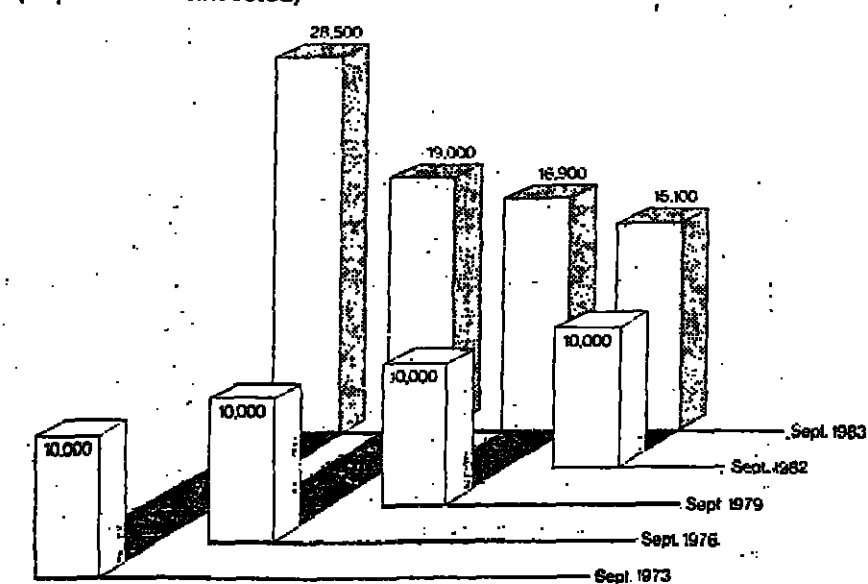
Siemens increased its capital spending a significant 20% during the first quarter, bringing it up to £96m (£80m last year). The emphasis was on the manufacture of new products and the modernization of existing facilities. Net income after taxes rose to £50m (£41m last year). As a result, the net profit margin attained 2.0% as against 1.8% the year before

and was equivalent to the figure for the total financial year ended 30 September 1983.

in £m	1/10/82 to 31/12/82	1/10/83 to 31/12/83	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	80	96	+ 20%
Net income after taxes	41	50	
in % of sales	1.8	2.0	

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 31 December 1983: £1 = DM 3.940.

Appreciation of a DM 10,000 investment in Siemens shares (all proceeds reinvested)



Investors' capital almost tripled in ten years

At the end of September 1973 a DM 10,000 investment purchased 46 Siemens shares. Reinvestment of all proceeds from the sale of subscription rights and all dividend income increased the portfolio to 82 Siemens shares in ten years. By that time the market value of the Siemens portfolio, at a price of DM 347.70 per share, totalled DM 28,500. This represents an average appreciation of 11% per year. Assuming that 30% tax, for example, was paid on the dividends, the return on the capital invested would still come to roughly 10% a year. Yields for the other investment periods shown are in some cases even higher.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Siemens House, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex, TW16 7HS

IBS dealings halted as board seeks aid

By Jonathan Clare

Wylie, the finance director, said the company had been looking for financial help "in earnest" over the last two weeks.

IBS is one of a number of small computer companies which have recently run into problems. Its big hope is its Portable Billing machine.

The PBM is a £4,500 portable computer which allows meter readers to bill users of electricity or gas on the spot. But so far the company has received orders only for pilot schemes. One analyst said: "It has always been jam tomorrow." But he added that IBS had a good product. The company was the result of a £9m management buy-out.

The company had not been expected to make a profit until this year but losses were expected to be gradually trimmed rather than worsen.

STREET			
Feb 13	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 14

COMMODITIES

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WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Johnson lifts gold medal to put the downhill experts in their place



From forerunner to foremost downhill skier in the world is the metamorphosis experienced by Bill Johnson in a moment of sweet fulfillment on the mountain of Mount Bjelasnica yesterday. He had been one of the racers to open the Lake Placid downhill in 1980, snow fodder for the men who really mattered. Now he had made the downhill Mafia of Austria, Switzerland and Canada, as one American colourfully dubbed them, eat their contemptuous words after his victory at Wengen last month. It is three years since a skier from another country won a downhill, Peter Mueller of Switzerland took the silver medal and Anton Steiner, of Austria, the bronze.

This is only Johnson's third season in Europe, having missed the 1981-82 season for disciplinary reasons. He is something of a free spirit, "basically able to do anything I want". He modestly claims. The quarrel with authority has been patched up and yesterday he was the hero of the American hour.

Johnson's first World Cup victory, in Wengen, was greeted with derision because of the freak conditions, but a fourth place at Cortina a week or two ago "solidified that I'm one of the top racers in the world. They had to learn to respect me". He admits to being a daredevil, but "everyone is in

From John Hennessy, Sarajevo the downhill. It takes quite a bit to throw yourself down a mountain".

Since arriving here Johnson has thrown himself down Mount Bjelasnica so impressively as to become the favourite for the Olympic title. "Johnson's a glider", Steve Podbrski, the leading Canadian, finally admitted. "He's got the best chance." Certainly the conditions created by new snow suited Johnson, who is from the west coast of the United States and does not take kindly to ice, more commonly found in the East.

An intermediate time placed Johnson 0.19 sec behind Pirmin Zurbriggen, but the American showed greater drive lower down. The first of the two testing bumpy stretches, which arrow the skiers into thrilling orbit, was a little untidy, but the second, more demanding, was taken in perfect control, with an immediate return to the tuck position. Thereafter it was downhill all the way, so to speak.

This was the easiest course the main exponents of downhill will meet all season, on the short side and technically straightforward, as is commonly the case in the Olympics where snow is notable only for dislocation of traffic.

It is also the easiest race to lose, for one mistake can be crucial. "You can spend all your life preparing for this one big shot", Johnson points out, "and blow it in the blink of an eye." There was no blinking on his part yesterday.

Mueller had the best intermediate time and a man of his vast experience might have been expected to hang on, but the lower part of the course caught him out. Steiner, similarly, could not match Johnson's drive in the lower reaches.

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
USA	1	0	0	1
East Germany	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Czechoslovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

The popular favourite, Franz Klammer, of Austria, looked rather like yesterday's man. He won the 1976 title in such spectacular style that he became a living legend. Even his exclusion from the Austrian team in 1980 could not destroy his reputation, but he never promised to achieve his ambition of a second title. He was desperately untidy through the passage of six giant slalom-type gates.

Martin Bell, the principal British entrant, did not disgrace himself for he finished eighth, with a number of distinguished skiers in his wake. It was not as statistically arresting as Konrad Bartelski's twelfth place in Lake Placid. But at 19 he has hope on his side.



Michela Figini files downhill to become the youngest winner of an Olympic Alpine title.

Gallery packed for mountain extravaganza

From David Miller Sarajevo

We awake in the city and there is mist. From the downhill summit the course stewards, who rise before dawn each day, announce that at last the prospects are good. Thousands of buses and ramshackle taxis once more start the long grind up to Bjelasnica.

At the start, which funnels out of the roof of a little restaurant like some industrial sluice, the temperature is minus 10°C even though, by mid-morning, the sun is bathing this beautiful mountain and spotlighting the multitude of photographers dotted along the borders of the run, buttercup yellow in their uniform anoraks.

Winding their way down past the two big jumps which dominate the last quarter of the course come a hundred soldiers in khaki with aluminium bucket-shovels, singing a haunting folk song which echoes round the slopes. They have done their work.

Spectators in long black ribbons are struggling upwards outside the orange safety fencing, often knee-deep in soft snow on a one-in-two slope, in search of superior viewing points.

Including the crowd down in the apron surrounding the finishing line, there will be an estimated 30,000 on the mountain for the most celebrated event of the

Games, many, at the top and mid sections, themselves on skis.

Half a mile up the course, long before the start, the mountain air is overcome by the aromas of garlic sausage and bitter-sweet slivovica, together with lumps-fall of acrid cigarette smoke. Many of the trees provide dress-circle seats.

Helicopters come and go from the car park area, dosing everyone within a hundred yards in snow-spray and rudely blowing over two huge hot-air advertising balloons, which roll about on top of parked cars like drunken dancers before finally collapsing.

Above us, the mountain towers like a vast wedding cake with tens of thousands of white candles. The tree-line extends more than two-thirds of the way to the top and the snow is thick. Even on the course, marshals making last-minute inspections send a plume like waterskiers every time they do a stem turn. It is certainly not a fast course, by comparison with most World Cup venues.

Other stewards, nonchalantly side-slipping down 50-degree gradients, sprinkle fir twig just off the ski-line between gates to give the competitors a focus point on the white blur when hurtling downwards at more than 60 mph.

Now the moment arrives. The forerunners have test-skied the

course; the photographers wait, vulture-like. In the freezing sunshine at the summit, where frost is inches deep on chair-lift pylons, Gary Athans, of Canada, kicks through the gate, turns sharp left on one of the few icy corners. Can North America break the European stranglehold?

From the chairlift, sometimes rising high above the trees, there is a wonderful view of the skiers as they swoop over the first third of the course, which to the innocent holiday skier seems as precipitous as the dome of St Paul's, then on down the gullies carved through the forest, flying like swallows yet always on a razor's edge.

I watch the critical first 15 competitors from the two jumps some 20 seconds from the finish. Can Franz Klammer achieve the unique Olympic double, following his remarkable 1976 run? But when his blue-clad figure

comes in sight, third man down, we already know he is three-tenths of a second behind the second-internal time of Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, just before him, Klammer rockets over the jumps, landing some 60 metres beyond; but the dream is over.

Muir of Italy and Cathomen of Switzerland follow. Then Johnson of America, the slightly brash, blue-eyed national champion of 1983. His white-and-pink barber-stripe suit catches the sun, he shoots past and is gone, a diminishing, crouched figure, fly-like by the time he crosses the line. His time is 1.5 seconds inside Klammer's, half a second better than Zurbriggen. We know he is the man to beat.

Mueller of Switzerland, starting eleventh, gets closest, but the relatively soft and easy course has suited Johnson. "It was not the mountain that beat me, it was the snow", complains Klammer, the ice demon, while Mueller insists: "Johnson was the best today - but not the best in the world."

It has been a heavy blow to Swiss/Austrian dignity, not to say industry. "A minor catastrophe", Klammer reflects. But he still has his hotel, bought following his gold medal. "I'm motivated on the flats", Johnson says, which seems to summarize this downhill sensation. He does not think it was much fun, just a job.



Victory salute: Bill Johnson holds the US flag aloft after winning the men's downhill.

A big step up for Miss Witt

From John Hennessy

Katarina Witt, of East Germany, skated a brilliant short programme yesterday to move up two places and take the lead from Rosalynn Sumners of the United States, the world champion, in the Zetra stadium. Elena Vodorova, the Russian champion, provides the middle of the sandwich.

The only woman, it seems who can now beat Miss Witt is Miss Witt. Her free skating, on yesterday's evidence, should be superior to that of an uninspired Miss Sumners and Tiffany Chin, a delightfully effin 15-year-old American, is too far back to mount a challenge.

Miss Witt, dressed up like a Christmas tree, wore a para, perhaps to symbolize her imminent ascendancy to this throne. Appropriately, she skated like a queen, with a glittering triple toe loop in the combination jump and no trace of error in any of the other elements.

Miss Sumners, on the other hand, touched down with her feet on the double axel, travelled conspicuously on her heels and gained little altitude in the flying sit-spins. She was only fifth and thereby sacrificed 1.6 points to Miss Witt.

Miss Chin was placed second in the short and was even preferred to Miss Witt by one judge, from Switzerland, but her fallibility in the compulsory figures leaves her too high a mountain to climb.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather	Temp (°C)
Andermatt 180 280	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-8C
Good skiing on pistes					
Arosa 140 190	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-8C
Powder on north facing slopes					
Courmayeur 200 300	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-8C
Excellent conditions					
Grindelwald 50 180	Good	Good	Good	Sun	-3C
Excellent skiing everywhere					
Igls 70 160	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-4C
Good skiing on pistes					
Isola 200 120	Fair	Crust	Good	Fine	-1C
Interesting off-piste skiing					
Klosters 138 200	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-7C
Skill some excellent powder					
La Plagne 100 180	Good	Good	Good	Fine	0C
Ice patches on lower slopes					
Mürren 160 225	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-6C
Lower slopes rather worn					
St Anton 130 180	Good	Good	Good	Fine	-8C
Powder on north facing slopes					
Seefeld 140 220	Good	Good	Good	Cloud	-4C
Thin powder on hard base					

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from a tourist board.

Country	Depth (cm)	State of snow	Weather	Temp (°C)
SWITZERLAND				
Adelboden	80 150	Pwd	-10	
Bräunwald	170 220	Pwd	-11	
Champery	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Château d'Oex	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Deer	140 220	Pwd	-12	
Engelberg	70 120	Pwd	-15	
Kandersteg	50 120	Pwd	-14	
Lenz	100 150	Pwd	-10	
Leysin	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Montreux	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Portofino	100 150	Pwd	-11	
San-Felice	100 150	Pwd	-11	
St-Gervais	110 140	Pwd	-10	
St-Moritz	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Servoz	80 120	Pwd	-15	
Untermythen	90 180	Pwd	-18	
Vallée	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Villars	150 200	Pwd	-11	
Wengen	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Zermatt	100 150	Pwd	-13	
ITALY				
Abetone	80 150	Pwd	-10	
Bormio	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Corvara	100 150	Pwd	-11	
Costa	80 150	Pwd	-11	
Madonna di C	70 110	Pwd	-11	

Spinks defends

New York (Reuters) - Michael Spinks, the undisputed light-heavyweight world champion, will make his ninth defence when he meets Eddie Davis, a fellow American, in a 12-round bout in Atlantic City on February 25.

Pearce is rated

David Pearce, the British heavyweight champion, has been given a five-figure rating by the WBA. He could meet the winner of next month's world title bout between Oseido Ocasio (Puerto Rico) and John Ochiambao

WINTER OLYMPIC RESULTS

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
USA	1	0	0	1
East Germany	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Czechoslovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
USA	1	0	0	1
East Germany	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Czechoslovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
USA	1	0	0	1
East Germany	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Czechoslovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

IN BRIEF

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
USA	1	0	0	1
East Germany	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Czechoslovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
USA	1	0	0	1
East Germany	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1
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Spain	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
USA	1	0	0	1
East Germany	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	1	1
West Germany	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Czechoslovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1
France	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1

FOOTBALL

Blackburn bank on a large cup crowd

Blackburn expect to have double their average attendance for today's FA Cup fifth round tie with Southampton at Ewood Park, even though it will be broadcast on television. "Leaving home on a cold night isn't easy when the match is being televised, but football needs atmosphere," said Bobby Saxton, Blackburn's manager. "Cameras are no substitute for the special feeling of a big game and I hope people will come along to watch the match and support the players and the occasion as a whole. I believe we could have a game of around 15,000."

"We realise Southampton are the cup favourites and I think it's justified, but Carlisle and Rotherham both beat them in the Milk Cup. Although Blackburn are unbeaten in their last 16 matches, attendances have dropped below 6,000 for half their 16 home games this season."

Blackburn won the FA Cup six times in 44 years around the turn of the century, including three in a row from 1884 to 1886, but their only win in the last 56 years was the third division title which they took in 1973. Saxton admitted "Blackburn's past is sometimes a problem for me but one that I relish."

It could be the year for a second division club to win as Wembley, said Saxton. "There have been so many surprises which shows the gap between the respective divisions has narrowed dramatically in the last 10 years. It's a pity that in the past it was sometimes a problem for me but one that I relish."

Blackburn will be without Barker, their 19-year-old midfield player, who broke a little toe in training and missed last Saturday's 1-1 draw at Derby.

Blackburn's goalkeeper, Tony Gennep, played for Southampton against Nottingham Forest in the 1979 League Cup Final. Southampton will be at full strength and manager Lawrie Montgomery warned: "We thought going to Portsmouth in the fourth round was tough. This one is going to be tougher."

Two Southern League Midlands Division clubs have new managers. Ian Cooper, the former manager of Sutton Coldfield Town and Telford United, succeeds Graham Newton at Willenhall Town, and Wilf Tranter, the former Manchester United, Fulham and Tottenham player and recently manager of Witney Town, replaces Philip Lines at Banbury United.

Barton frustrated by a comedy of errors

By Stuart Jones

Richardson for tomorrow's fixture against Shrewsbury Town. He became their hero by scoring the second goal and was then fortunate to escape being the villain when he "sacked" Shaw's last-minute effort on the line.

Richardson was aware that he was in considerable pain throughout the last hour. Only afterwards, however, did he discover that his right wrist was not merely fractured but also dislocated. Seldom does a scorer refuse the congratulations of his colleagues, but it is clear now why he told them all to "keep away".

England will seek to make amends in first of one-day internationals

From Derek Hodgson, Christchurch

Views differ on N Zealand strip

Christchurch, New Zealand (Reuter) - Local cricketers who have played on the controversial Lancaster Park pitch since England's innings defeat on its earlier this month said yesterday it was cracked and pitted.

Tomorrow it will be in use again when England meet New Zealand in the first of three one-day internationals. One local cricketer said: "If England bat first and they have still got this hang-up about bad pitches it could all be over by 3 pm."

His colleagues claimed the pitch is in the same condition as when England crashed to defeat by an innings and 132 runs. But Abbie Duckmanton, chairman of the Canterbury Cricket Association, said: "It appears at this stage to be a very good strip."

In a mad and dizzy pursuit of mass TV audiences and the profits to be skimmed from advertisers, sponsors and huge gate receipts, cricket is being forced into changes so fast it will soon become unrecognizable.

If coloured shirts, why not names and numbers too? Away with these unintelligible references to silly mid on and third man. Superimpose a clock-face on the screen: square leg becomes three o'clock, and so on. Grass is unreliable and liable to change unexpectedly, so play on Astroturf where the bounce will be gentle and uniform.

Artificial surfaces might also eliminate those dangerous subversives, the spinners. Fading light? Can't have that. Batmen must be able to see properly, so

play all games under artificial lights.

Umpires are a little Victorian, too. If the referee is in charge, why not appoint umpires who could tell a quick joke to camera in that dreary gap between overs? Either that or ensure that there is enough time between overs to give an advertiser a decent burst.

Scoreboards are a nuisance. Who can work out all those numbers? They have a great idea in boxing: a pretty young thing in high heels and a bikini trots round the ring between rounds and holding up a placard with the number of the round to come. That could apply to the next over, too.

Those commentators can be a bore. You can sell Benaud and Laker to a Miss World audience. Something light and cheerful is needed: you know, the Breakfast TV approach. If people get depressed they start thinking, No, not Roland Rat. Perhaps a disc jockey, with the presenter from a quiz show.

That is the kind of packaged cricket that no self-respecting commercial TV company could resist, and if they could devise some method of pushing it down-market they might even sell it to the Americans.

All this may read like a fantasy, a passage from George Orwell, in Bath or Bradford. In Australia and New Zealand it could be happening next year because cricket is no longer controlled by people who love it as a game.

England train at Lancaster Park this morning and will be keen to see what has happened to the square since the notorious pitch prepared for the second Test match. The other two matches follow in Wellington next Wednesday and Auckland the following Saturday.

Tooby girls identical in every way but current fitness



Susan Tooby (left) and Angela neck and neck (Photograph: Tony Marshall)

Dead heat for twins who came in from the cold

Angela Tooby has not quite made up her mind how good she is. The English cross-country champion at Knebworth Park, Hertfordshire, tomorrow should go a long way towards convincing her, for she is a likely winner. And if her twin, Susan, had not been injured earlier this season, the organizers might have needed a photo-finish to separate them. Few people would be any the wiser.

They prefer to spare us the problem by not running the same race when they can avoid it, since it is a problem for them, too. "It's difficult mentally having her there," Angela says. "It's like your inner self running by your side. You're not only thinking of yourself, you're thinking of that other part of you. It's an added pressure. If the best runner in Britain were beside us, it wouldn't matter. I would just be thinking of Susan."

Angela claims that she does not believe in notions of telepathy between identical twins, putting it down to "the same genes and conditioning". But when their new coach Ann Hill put her on a crash diet last year, and she lost a stone in two weeks, her sister also lost weight, without the diet. Susan admits that if Angela gave up running, she would, too. Angela puts it another way: "As long as one of us is running, the other will have to continue."

There has never been more than a few seconds separating them since they were children, and their father sent them running around the family orchard at Woolhope, Herefordshire, when they complained of the cold. Only a week separated their respective breakthroughs into the rank of women's distance running last autumn. When Angela won the English 10 miles road championship, at Hendon on October 2, the question uppermost in our minds was "Who?" For she had never won any road race, let alone a national title.

The surprise was compounded when Susan won the Welsh 10 miles title in 55 mins 56 seconds, only 25 seconds slower than Angela's time. "She had to do it, because I'd done it," Angela says. "Rivalry, but not jealousy," she emphasized. Then interdependence is awesome, but rewarding, like the six-day cycle racers who alternate the lead by catching each other's arm, to catapult their partner forward. From school in Hereford, they did the same university course in Aberystwyth, played the same basketball and county hockey teams, and of course, ran together.

After three years in Aberystwyth, they have run for Wales, which is their intention. But they have been separated for the last couple of years. Angela stayed on in Wales to do her teacher training, but Susan went to Loughborough, "and started training seriously". Angela says with the glint of rivalry back in her eye. That pushed Angela into finding a proper coach for the first time in her career, a move that Susan later followed. Angela now teaches geography and PE in Cambridge, while Susan teaches the same subjects in Bristol.

They are in no doubt that Ann Hill's direction has made them into international material. After those national ten-mile victories, Angela followed up with the fastest time in the national road relay, with Susan second, and their Cardiff club easy winners of the title. But then Susan got the dreaded "shin splints", which signals an imminent stress fracture, and she eased off training for a month over Christmas.

But Angela carried all before her. She won the Paris to Versailles 17 kilometres race, and then literally dictated the record in the Morpeth to Newcastle New Year race. She took 4½ minutes off the 13 miles course record in a fierce crosswind that "subtended to blow me into a ditch". But being a little female, she says coyly, "And then swore at them for slowing down."

Susan made a good comeback two weeks ago when she finished fourth in the European Club Cross Country Championships in Italy that Angela won. And Susan should still make good her forecast of the top ten in tomorrow's race.

Benning a doubtful starter

The defending champion, Christine Benning of Southampton, is a doubtful starter for the tomorrow's race, which is sponsored by Mrs Insurance.

Mrs Benning, in outstanding form when she won the Southern title recently, has a cold and is unlikely to run.

The favourite now is likely to be Jane Furniss, aged 23, of Sheffield, who won the Inter-Counties title convincingly. The absence of Mrs Benning could cause a problem for England's selectors, who will choose the team for the World Championships in New York on March 25.

But it is hard to draw Angela out of the same modest ambition.

She still clings to the relative obscurity of Woolhope, Aberystwyth and Cambridge. Susan, who got to know the personalities in her sport during her year in Loughborough, cannot believe how her sister does not know her principal opponents, but says she can understand Angela's trepidation about being one of tomorrow's favourites, after finishing thirty-third in last year's race in which Susan was thirty-first.

But Angela prefers to think "my advantage is not knowing the people I'm running against, so go into a race oblivious of who such-and-such is. Somebody offered to take her to see tomorrow's course since it is barely 30 minutes' drive from Cambridge. But she refused. "I just want to turn up and run." Asked if she wanted to modify her own top ten projection, she conceded "top five" then in the same sentence admitted to "first three". Angela Tooby had better enjoy today. It will probably be her last without pressure.

Pat Butcher

Car Buyer's Guide

General

GIBBS GARAGES
NEW FORD ESCORT CABRIO
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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Peter Waymark

Austin Rover unveils £5m design unit



The Volvo 360 - now available as a four-door saloon

Ask any car designer about his job and he will probably say something about the need to reconcile the practical requirements of the vehicle with what is called showroom appeal. The ability to excite the customer and, even better, persuade him to buy.

It is impossible to say how many sales have been lost because, without even getting into the car, let alone driving it, a potential owner has been dissuaded by the vehicle's appearance. Judging from casual conversations, it happens a lot more frequently than might be thought.

This week Austin Rover lifted the curtain just a little on its design operation, which must of necessity be subject to the utmost security so that what is being planned for models due to be launched in five, even ten, years' time, does not leak to the opposition.

Astonishing as it may seem, though with what used to be called British Leyland nothing surprises the company's design department was until recently scattered across three sites with inadequate facilities. Hardly conducive to dynamic creation.

Then the old Triumph factory at Canley, near Coventry, stopped production. BL tried to sell it but were hampered by covenants and decided to make a virtue out of necessity by pulling together under one roof most of the functions of Austin Rover, its volume car division.

Among the facilities housed at Canley are new design studios, which, when they are completed, will have cost more than £5m and be able to claim the latest in computer and other technology.

Computers now play a crucial part in the development of car design, not only making the process more accurate but so speeding it up that according to Austin Rover, the average lead time on a new model has been cut from six years to four.

The importance of this is that unlike, say, his opposite number in the fashion business, who only has to plan ahead a few months, the car designer has somehow to gauge the tastes and needs of motorists in several years' time when conditions may be quite different from those obtaining today.

The Austin Rover design director is Mr Roy Axe, a passable double for Eric Morecambe who until he took up his job two years ago had spent his career with Rootes and then Chrysler, latterly in the United States. Given the lead times referred to, the first Austin Rover model to bear what might be called the Axe marks is the XX executive saloon due next year.

This is the car that BL has developed jointly with Honda of Japan and it will be fascinating to see how the collaboration works out. Each company is producing its own version of the XX from a basic common design and the biggest difference will be in external appearance.

With each new model after that Mr Axe and his 110-strong design team will be aiming for a family resemblance to a greater extent than the company has attempted so far to the opposition.

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Mr Gordon Sked, puts it, "slavish obedience to aerodynamic characteristics must not reduce individuality. If it is sometimes difficult for designers to differentiate vehicles, they can the public tell the difference."

"Designers in the 1970s were criticized for encouraging a 'Euro-look' - particularly in front end design. I am determined that we shall not be similarly rebuked for allowing aerodynamics to encourage a similar lack of individual identity."

The Dutch-built "small" Volvo got off to a dreadful start in Britain but is now one of the most popular imported cars. Last year 36,753 were sold, more than BL managed for the lal, Ambassador or Rover, and among foreign makes only the Nissan Sunny did better.

The car's unhappy launch was due to a combination of factors: it was absurdly overpriced as offered in only one version and even felt short in areas of traditional Volvo strength, quality and reliability. One by one these handicaps were removed and the range seems to grow from strength to strength.

The latest version, the GLE, went on sale here just before Christmas but is as yet in limited supply. It has a two litre engine, available either in fuel-injected or carburettor form, and a five-speed gearbox, and is the first model in the 300 range to have a saloon, rather than a hatchback, bodyshell.

The styling of the front three-quarters of the car is much as before but at the back it has a high, square tail, housing the boot, and overall is four inches longer. The boot, fully carpeted, offers a useful 12.8 cubic ft of load space and there is a hinged parcel in the rear seat which allows long objects to be pushed through.

The extra inches have all gone to the boot and though the car is as long as, say, the Ford Sierra, it does not have the same interior space as some rivals. Rear seat passengers have ample headroom but the long legged will only be comfortable if the front seats are moved forward. If and when Volvo replace the car, they must surely go over to front-wheel drive to release more room inside.

I have been driving the GLE in its carburettor form, slightly surprised that Volvo still employs a manual choke. Developing 92 bhp (compared with the 115 of the fuel-injected version), the engine gives adequate, if not rapid, acceleration through the gears but scores of flexibility: even in fifth, an over-drive gear, it is possible to pull away quite strongly.

With two litres powering a car that is by no means heavy for its class, fuel consumption should perhaps be lower. My average return was a modest 25 mpg, though as the official figures indicate, considerably better results can be obtained by maintaining a steady cruising speed in fifth gear.

But the introduction of the bigger engine - the other one is a 1400 unit - has improved refinement. Mechanical noise is never intrusive and at 70 mph in top gear the engine is turning over at a relaxed 2800 rpm; the only noticeable wind noise appears to come from the large outside mirror. Refinement has also been helped by the fitting of new hydraulic engine mountings.

The steering is a little heavy for parking but is otherwise accurate and responsive and the brakes are reassuringly powerful. The ride/handling compromise could be

happier for while the ride is on the firm side, tending towards choppy on rough surfaces, there is still some bodyroll. Roadholding, however, is excellent.

The seats are of generous size and well shaped and in the front are equipped with lumbar supports, allowing adjustment for the firmness of the backrest. The driver has the bonus of a seat cushion that automatically heats in cold weather. The comprehensive heating and ventilation system produces a powerful flow of either hot, or cool, air, or a combination, and rear passengers have their own controls.

The Volvo 360 is not a dramatic car and it has no outstanding features to set it apart from its competitors, which include the other medium saloons like the Sierra, Vauxhall Cavalier and Renault 18. Rather it satisfies the demand, particularly evident in Britain, for a vehicle that does the basic things well: it is solidly built and well finished and should not let its owner down.

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ROLLS-ROYCE SHADOW II

1978 Nov

Champagne, black upholstery, headlamp wash, 16,500 miles. Excellent condition throughout.

£21,000

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Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II

1980 48,000 miles. Two tone blue/grey. Very good condition.

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ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Wraith

August 80. Wraith with green leather & Evertex roof. 12,000 miles only, private sale.

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1977 Shadow II

Chestnut with beige overleaf roof. Large trim piped in brown front and rear headrests, handstamped roof etc. Excellent condition, service history. 25,000 miles.

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1974 Silver Shadow. 7,000 miles. Wraith roof. Magnolia beige interior. Full service history. 25,000 miles.

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1978 Silver Shadow. 7,000 miles. Wraith roof. Magnolia beige interior. Full service history. 25,000 miles.

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IN MEMORIAM (WAR)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

MARRIAGES

IN MEMORIAM

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

SUPERIOR VILLAS

WINTER SUN - WORLD WIDE

GREEK ISLANDS CLUB

WINTER SUN - WORLD WIDE

WINTER SUN - WORLD WIDE

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

6.00 **Cee-fax AM**, A selection of News and information items, available on every TV set.

6.30 **Breakfast Time**, with Selina Scott and Mike Smith. Today's Friday "special" include Alan Titchmarsh's gardening hints (between 7.30-7.45), pop news (7.45 and 8.00) and food and cooking (between 8.30 and 9.00). Regular items include news at 8.30, then half-hourly until 8.30. Sport (6.40, 7.40), TV Choice (8.55). Morning Matters (7.18 and 8.18) and Your Stars (8.33).

9.00 **Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle**, cartoon series, 9.20 **My Music**, Steve Rave puts the questions to Frank Miller and John Arns, and Dennis Norden and Ian Wallace (10.15). 9.45 **Cee-fax**, pages: 10.30 **Play School**, 10.55 **Play Ideas**, 11.05 **Cee-fax**, pages: 12.15 **Supersides**, 12.30 **News After Noon**, 12.57 **Financial Report** and sub-titled news.

1.00 **Olympic Grandstand**, Live coverage of the first two runs of the Four-Man Bobsleigh event. Also Skiing: the Ladies Slalom (see also 6.40 entry, and 10.50).

3.15 **The Fenlands**, How the rich farmlands of south Lincolnshire have kept their head above water. With Catherine Wilson, Keeper of Lincolnshire History.

3.50 **Magie Roundabout**, 3.55 **Play School** (10 of 10). More about Diane Cooney and her make-believe boyfriend. With Julie Ann Steel as Diane: 5.35 **The Wombles**.

5.40 **Sixty Minutes**, The line-up is: news (5.40), weather (5.45), regional magazines (5.55) and closing headlines (5.58).

6.40 **Olympic Grandstand**, Skiing: the Ladies Slalom. And Ice Hockey, in which the winners of Group B plays the runners-up in Group A.

7.05 **Match of the Day - Live**: Blackburn Rovers v Southampton. Jimmy Hill introduces the programme and the match commentator is John Motson.

9.00 **News**, the reader is Sue Lawley. And weather prospects for the weekend.

9.25 **Remington Steele**, After reading the manuscript of his wife's book, a husband fears for his life. Then, he mysteriously disappears from a party.

10.15 **The Further Adventures of Lucky Jim**, Enn Reitel plays Kingley Ann's hero, recreated by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (1).

10.45 **News**, And weather for the weekend.

10.50 **Olympic Grandstand**, Ice Hockey - Group A winner against the Group B runner-up. The commentator is Alan Weeks.

11.20 **Film: Bad Man's River** (1971). Filmed in Spain, western about a tussle over a million-dollar cheque. Lee Van Cleef plays the leader of a gang of bank robbers in *Tejas*. Gina Lollobrigida plays the "widow" who intends to take the outlaw for everything he has. Also starring James Mason, as a Mexican revolutionist. Directed by Gene Martin. Ends at 12.50am.

tv-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain**, with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's Friday "special" include Checkout (8.45), guest of the day Lynsey de Paul (7.40), and in Fantasy Time at 10.00, Weekend Breaks (8.20). TV Highlights (8.45), Diana Dors (8.45) and Checkout Again (8.50). Regular items include news at 8.30, then half-hourly until 8.30. Sport (6.40, 7.40), TV Choice (8.55). Morning Matters (7.18 and 8.18) and Your Stars (8.33).

9.25 **Thames News headlines**, 9.30 **For Schools**, The line-up is: 9.30 Your Living Body: 8.47 Full Steam Ahead: 10.00 Children's secret places: 10.26 Introduction to Time: 10.43 Understanding the Economy: 11.05 Middle East Briefing: 11.20 Animal Movie: cartoon, 11.30 Brother, Can you Spare a Dime?

12.00 **Jamie and the Magic Torch** for the toddlers: 12.10 **Patience**, repeated at 12.10; 12.30 **Survival: Down in the Forest**, A film about the national parks of Sri Lanka (1).

1.00 **News**, 1.20 **Thames area news**, 1.30 **After Britain**, The Wash, The farming threat to this famous natural sanctuary for birds and seals.

2.00 **Just our Luck**, comedy series about a weather man and a genie, 2.30 **Patience**, repeated at 12.10; 12.30 **Survival: Down in the Forest**, A film about the national parks of Sri Lanka (1).

3.00 **News**, 3.20 **Thames area news**, 3.30 **After Britain**, The Wash, The farming threat to this famous natural sanctuary for birds and seals.

4.00 **Children's TV: Rainbow**, 4.20 **Patience**, repeated at 12.10; 12.30 **Survival: Down in the Forest**, A film about the national parks of Sri Lanka (1).

5.00 **News**, 5.20 **Thames area news**, 5.30 **After Britain**, The Wash, The farming threat to this famous natural sanctuary for birds and seals.

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9.00 **News**, 9.20 **Thames area news**, 9.30 **After Britain**, The Wash, The farming threat to this famous natural sanctuary for birds and seals.

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11.00 **News**, 11.20 **Thames area news**, 11.30 **After Britain**, The Wash, The farming threat to this famous natural sanctuary for birds and seals.

12.00 **News**, 12.20 **Thames area news**, 12.30 **After Britain**, The Wash, The farming threat to this famous natural sanctuary for birds and seals.

THE DAY OF THE FIREBALL

(BBC 2, 7.45pm) reminds us yet again that when it comes to disaster movies, fiction has nothing on fact. It will be a very foolish person indeed who, in the future, will attempt to go on better than this *World About Us* film and deck out the story with all the sensational trappings of commercial cinema. A year ago the week, ideas of flames swept across a tinder-dry southern Australia, leaving death and destruction in their wake. Tonight's film is both a record of that ferocious catastrophe (were there, one wonders, bravery awards for the camera crews and reporters - and if not, why not?), and a sombre meditation on the task of rebuilding new communities to replace those wiped out in the holocaust.

Blaze victim: Day of the Fireball (BBC2, 7.45pm)

CHOICE

● **MANOOK OF THE NORTH** (Channel 4, 3.45pm) is Robert Flaherty's film about the daily round of the Eskimo, that was transmuted into a poetic and humane nature and divine punishment that queue up for inspection when considering the reasons for the apparent inevitability of war. As the weeks progress, Mr Stern will doubtless present testimony from living authorities. Today, it is mainly the dead who speak, from the depths of the BBC archives. But they were famous, often influential, voices (Shaw, Churchill, Auden, Huxley, Kipling, Joad, Jung, Baden-Powell), and their combined philosophies, together with modern projections of them, will doubtless form the soil in which Mr Stern, in an accompanying episode, will plant his arguments as to whether war can ever be prevented, or at least limited in scope.

● **WAR AND PEACE IN OUR TIME** (Radio 4, 4.10pm), Geoffrey Stern's

BBC 2

6.05 **Open University** (until 8.10), 8.05 **Daytime on Two** (until 2.40). The line-up is: 8.30 **Food and Population**, 8.55 **Maths-In-A-Box** (Weight Watchers), 9.52 **The Boy from Space** (5); 10.15 **Mathscore Two**; 10.38 **Exploring Science** (cells); 11.00 (drawing and painting flowers and butterflies); 11.22 **River Landscapes**; 11.44 **Going to Work**; 12.05 **Making the Most of the Micro**; 12.30 **Micros in the Classroom**; 12.55 **Speak for Yourself** (late for work).

1.20 **Pages from Cee-fax**, 1.38 **Around Scotland** (behind the scenes at a department store); 2.01 **The reality of being a parent**; 2.30 **TV reporter** Kate Adie shows what her job entails; Plus a discussion; 2.50 **Cee-fax**, pages.

5.05 **Weekend Outlook**: Open University trailers, 5.15 **Talking to Children**, Old film in which teenagers working on a CSE course consider the characteristics of infant language; 5.35 **News**.

5.40 **Film: Murder Most Foul** (1964) Against Christie's sleuth Miss Marple (gloriously impersonated by Margaret Rutherford) investigates a murder in the ranks of a third-rate repertory company. The supporting cast includes James Bolam, Terry Scott and Francesca Annis. Director: George Pollock.

7.05 **ORS 84**: The main band featured tonight is The Alarm. Making their television debut: Night Catchers, Marc Almond demonstrates the "Black Magic Boy Finder".

7.45 **The World Around Us**: The Day of the Fireball: The terrifying story of Ash Wednesday, 1983, when 76 died and 2,000 homes were destroyed by a runaway bushfire in South Australia. (see Choice).

8.35 **Gardeners' World**: The winter-flowering shrubs and plants in Sonia Kishan's half-acre garden at St Leonards-on-Sea.

9.00 **W.A.S.H. Bribery and violence** when Harvey, B.J. and Charles go to decide who gets promoted in the 407th.

9.25 **Whisker!** The topic is divorce. In the studio, Baroness Thyssen, Mel Calman, and Hollywood divorce lawyer Marvin Mitchell.

10.05 **Dame Edna Everage: A Birthday Tribute**, Live, by satellite, from Sydney, on the occasion of Dame Edna's entering into her 51st year. Affectionate tributes are contributed by Sir Patterson, the cultural attaché, and Barry Humphries who is not unconnected with Dame Edna.

10.55 **Newsnight**.

11.40 **A Whistle Test Special**: The *Radio Works*, on stage and facing a capacity audience, at Salford Park, Liverpool last summer. Ends at 12.25am.

CHANNEL 4

3.45 **Film: Manook of the North** (1922) Robert Flaherty's (famous documentary about the life of an Eskimo) and his family complements tomorrow night's Channel 4 documentary about Eskimo life in the 1980s, *People of the Arctic*.

5.00 **Television Caribbe**: The final was screened yesterday. Tonight brings a special exhibition match between the winners and this year's national Scrabble champion, Colin Gumbrell, and his partner, Anne Bradford. The programme presenter: Alan Coren, editor of *Punch*.

5.30 **The Tube**: pop music show. Among tonight's guests is Gary Mollister, who will perform his new band plus Big Country and Fiction Factory.

7.00 **Channel Four News**, And weather prospects for the weekend.

7.30 **Right to Reply**: Karen Armstrong, a prominent critic of her series, *The First Christian*, about St Paul.

8.00 **A Week in Politics**, with Peter Jay. The row over the EEC budget. And the latest on the Chesterfield by-election.

8.40 **What the Papers Say**: Anthony Howard, of the *Observer*, examines the way different newspapers have covered the same stories.

9.00 **Dream Stuffing**: Comedy series about two flat-sharers (Rachel Weaver and Amanda Symonds). Tonight: jealousy rears its ugly head.

9.30 **The Lady Is a Tramp**: Brand-new series of comedy half hours featuring Patricia Hayes and Pat Coombs as the tramps who live among the down-and-outs in an abandoned van on a London street.

10.00 **Johnny Spaight** who created *Thelma & Louise*. Tonight, the two tramps wake to find a visitor has spent the night in their yard. They decide to take advantage of him in their characteristic way.

10.30 **Chairs**: Yet another comedy half-hour for Friday night Channel 4 viewers. A former boyfriend of Diana's (Shelley Long) walks back into her life, but he appears to have more than friendship in mind when he invites her out to dinner.

10.50 **Well Being**: The stories of two middle-aged women, Neil and Pat, both married, who have to care for their senile mothers. It is a responsibility that has driven them to desperate lengths. On occasions they admit to having used physical violence.

11.15 **Film: The Big Heat** (1953) Highly-rated Fritz Lang thriller, with Glenn Ford as the police captain who, when his wife is killed in an explosion meant for him, resigns from the force and sets off on a trail of vengeance. Strong support from Gloria Grahame, Alexander Scourby, Jocelyn Brando and Lee Marvin. Ends at 12.55.

Radio 4

6.00 **News Briefing**, 6.25 **Shipping**, 6.30 **Farming Today**, 6.55 **Shipping**, 7.00 **Today**, including 7.25, 7.30, 7.50 **Spotlight**, 8.00 **Today**, 8.15 **Today**, 8.30 **Today**, 8.45 **Today**, 8.55 **Today**, 9.00 **Today**, 9.15 **Today**, 9.30 **Today**, 9.45 **Today**, 9.55 **Today**, 10.00 **Today**, 10.15 **Today**, 10.30 **Today**, 10.45 **Today**, 10.55 **Today**, 11.00 **Today**, 11.15 **Today**, 11.30 **Today**, 11.45 **Today**, 11.55 **Today**, 12.00 **Today**, 12.15 **Today**, 12.30 **Today**, 12.45 **Today**, 12.55 **Today**, 1.00 **Today**, 1.15 **Today**, 1.30 **Today**, 1.45 **Today**, 1.55 **Today**, 2.00 **Today**, 2.15 **Today**, 2.30 **Today**, 2.45 **Today**, 2.55 **Today**, 3.00 **Today**, 3.15 **Today**, 3.30 **Today**, 3.45 **Today**, 3.55 **Today**, 4.00 **Today**, 4.15 **Today**, 4.30 **Today**, 4.45 **Today**, 4.55 **Today**, 5.00 **Today**, 5.15 **Today**, 5.30 **Today**, 5.45 **Today**, 5.55 **Today**, 6.00 **Today**, 6.15 **Today**, 6.30 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